

USDA Forest Service - US-Affiliated Pacific Islands Graduate Fellowship

The Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry (IPIF) of the USDA Forest Service is conducting outreach for the USDA Forest Service - US-Affiliated Pacific Islands (US-API) Graduate Fellowship at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo for Fall 2025. We are pleased to announce the **availability of one graduate fellowship for a student dedicated to a career in forestry, conservation biology, and environmental science in the US-API** at UH Hilo in the Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science (TCBES) Graduate Program (<http://tcbes.uhh.hawaii.edu/>). In addition to working with a faculty member in TCBES, the student will also be mentored by a research scientist at IPIF (<https://research.fs.usda.gov/psw/programs/ipif#people>) to develop a project in the US-API (Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia). The fellowship comes with generous support for 2 years, including a stipend, tuition costs, health insurance, and costs for travel and supplies needed to conduct research work associated with the research project. The fellowship recipient is expected to work with their IPIF mentor part-time in the school year and full-time in the summer break.

Through research, knowledge sharing, and partnership the Institute provides scientific and technical information needed to restore, conserve, and sustain tropical forests and wetlands of the Pacific. **The overall goal of the USFS graduate fellowship program in TCBES is to help develop the next generation of forestry and environmental leaders in the US-API.** The following eligibility criteria apply: (i) acceptance to the TCBES graduate program for Fall 2025 and pursuing a M.S. degree in TCBES (either Thesis Track or Professional Internship Track); (ii) have a letter of support from an IPIF scientist stating acceptance to serve as a mentor for the fellowship; (iii) have a letter of support from a natural resource agency/organization based in the US-API; (iv) track record of supporting the US-API's environment (e.g., internships, volunteer opportunities) or demonstrated leadership potential (academic, extracurricular, and/or professional); and (v) commitment to attaining and pursuing a long-term career in forestry, conservation biology, or environmental science in the US-API.

Application Details:

- If you are not currently a TCBES graduate student, you must first apply to the TCBES program submitting all required material for admissions to TCBES (either Thesis Track or Professional Internship Track). The priority deadline for TCBES is December 1, but applications will continue to be accepted after that on a rolling basis until all slots are filled. See the Graduate School Admission website for more information (<https://hilo.hawaii.edu/academics/graduate/>) and the TCBES website (<http://tcbes.uhh.hawaii.edu/apply>). Once you have been accepted into the TCBES program, you can then apply for the IPIF US-API Graduate Fellowship.
- Current TCBES graduate students are eligible, but preference may be given towards incoming students.
- Applications for the IPIF US-API Graduate Fellowship will be accepted starting January 1, 2025 with a March 1, 2025 deadline for priority consideration. Applications will be accepted after March 1st on a rolling basis until the fellowship is filled.
- Send a complete application packet to: Amanda Uowolo (Amanda.L.Uowolo@usda.gov) with "IPIF US-API Graduate Fellowship Application Fall 2025" in the subject line. A complete application includes:
 - A copy of the TCBES acceptance letter
 - Undergraduate and/or post-graduate transcript(s) (unofficial are fine)
 - A personal statement (1000 words maximum), written as a coherent narrative that tells your story. The personal statement should address the following: (i) What experiences have led you to want to pursue a Master's degree in tropical conservation and environmental science? (ii) How will acquiring a Master's degree in tropical conservation and environmental science support your short-term and long-term career goals, as well as benefit the US-API? (iii) What personal attributes make you well-suited and committed to studying and stewarding the environment in the US-API?