Approaching the Packard Foundation

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation is committed to effectiveness and a capacity to think big. The Foundation invests in leaders and organizations to promote positive, lasting change in the creative pursuit of science and the earth’s natural systems, among other things.

Overview: Two main programs include 1) Packard Fellowships for Science and Engineering and 2) the Conservation and Science program. The Fellowship program provides early career scientists and engineers with flexible funding and the freedom to take risks, explore new frontiers, and follow uncharted paths that may lead to groundbreaking discoveries. The Foundation’s Conservation and Science program invests in action and ideas that conserve and restore ecosystems while enhancing human well-being.

Packard Fellowships for Science and Engineering

- Early Career (less than 3 years in faculty position)
- Supports individual research programs rather than extension of larger-scale ongoing programs
- Limited to 2 nominees per university
- Apply through UCI internal competition.

Areas of Interest: Physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology, astronomy, computer science, early science, ocean science and all branches of engineering

Characteristics of Successful Candidates:

- Research focus is in novel, unimpacted area of science
- Multiple publications in high level journals
- Outstanding letters of recommendation from industry leaders.

Awards

Fellowships: $875,000 over five years

Deadlines

Fellowship Life Cycle

January 31: Nominations sent to university presidents:

February: Internal competition to select UCI nominees

February 15: Online application is available

March 15: Nominations due to the Foundation

April 20: All application materials must be submitted

October 17: Awards will be announced

Conservation & Science:

For the Climate Change Mitigation program, unsolicited proposals are not accepted, but please contact Foundation Relations for possible partnering opportunities.
Conservation and Science Program

This program supports public policy reforms, changes in private sector practices, and scientific activities to develop essential knowledge and tools for addressing current and future priorities. Focus areas include:

1) Climate Change Mitigation: Promote clean power alternatives, increase low carbon transportation options, increase energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, and improve land use practices. Unsolicited proposals are not accepted, but informal inquiries are welcome.

2) Ocean Conservation:
- Gulf of California: Support organizations that work to protect the Gulf of California and promote the sustainable use of its rich biological resources
- Marine Bird: Expected to run from 2007-2021. It supports high-priority projects to eradicate invasive species on seabird breeding islands. It also funds advocacy and outreach to fisheries to improve regulations that will reduce bycatch and ensure the broad use of best practices on the high seas.
- Marine Fisheries: Over the next five years, the Foundation will accelerate improvements in global fisheries management. By leveraging the leadership of nongovernmental organizations and their business partners, the Foundation will support the next stage of a global shift toward sustainable seafood to deliver concrete improvements in how fisheries and farms are managed. It is expected that funding will increase in the Asia and Pacific regions.
- U.S. West Coast: Between 2013-2018, the Foundation expects to increase investments in Californian fisheries improvement, decrease investments in marine protected areas, and maintain level funding for their national policy and federal fisheries efforts.

Western Pacific: The program spans across five countries with primary efforts within Indonesia, Fiji and Palau where investments are made in a full range of activities addressing marine reserve and fisheries management, as well as building organizational capacity.

Other Packard Programs:

Population and Reproductive Health: Promotes reproductive health and rights, and stabilizing population growth in South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and the United States.

Children, Families and Communities: Support for state-based groups advocating for children’s health insurance efforts in their states, technical assistance for state program directors and policy makers.