



Passions of Paradise Student Research Grant 2011

About the grant

Passions of Paradise is a commercial marine tourist operator based in Cairns, Queensland, and runs day trips to the Great Barrier Reef. Passions of Paradise is certified as an Advanced Ecotourism operator by Ecotourism Australia and High Standard Operator by the Great Barrier Marine Park Authority. It has been running an on-board shark conservation awareness program through which visitors on board the boat learn about sharks and rays, the issues facing them and their conservation. Ten percent of proceeds from t-shirt and other merchandise sales are donated to the OCS to fund graduate student awards and research grants.

Passions of Paradise has funded up to \$3000 in student travel awards and conference prizes at the 2007, 2008 and 2011 OCS conferences, and the IPFC and Sharks International conferences in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

In **2011**, Passions is providing **\$1000 in funding**, with the OCS to provide an **additional \$1000**, toward a student research grant for projects in the Oceania region.

Criteria for eligibility and grant conditions

The following criteria and conditions apply to the Passions Student Research Grant 2011.

1. The student must be enrolled in a university and be working towards a PhD or MSc on a topic involving research on chondrichthyans in the Oceania region¹.

¹ The Oceania region includes Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands (American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna Islands)

2. The grant may not be used to fund conference attendance or for travel that is unrelated to the research project.
3. The recipient must be a financial member of the society before applying for the grant.
4. The grant is not transferable and must be spent in the 2012 calendar year.
5. The research must not have been undertaken prior to application for the award.
6. Successful applicants are required to prepare a one-page report for publication in the OCS newsletter at the end of the one-year grant period, and provide a summary of how the research grant was spent.
7. Successful applicants are required to also prepare a 1-2 paragraph synopsis of their research in easy-to-understand English to be provided to Passions of Paradise for inclusion in shark awareness publications given to passengers.
8. The OCS and Passions of Paradise must be acknowledged in all publications, posters, or presentations resulting from the project.

Proposals

Proposals of no more than four pages are invited from eligible students. Applicants must include the following information in the proposal.

1. Applicant's name, address, date of birth and current tertiary qualifications.
2. University and faculty/school/department of enrollment.
3. Name of supervisor(s).
4. Project title and degree for which enrolled (MSc or PhD).
5. Brief description of the project, stating: aims and significance, methods, including project design, progress made to date with clear indication of what the funding will be used for, expected year of completion and year in which enrolled.
6. A detailed budget.
7. Details of all other sources of funding for the project.
8. A statement by the supervisor or a representative of the university, verifying that the project has been represented accurately and that the Institution is prepared to administer the award.

Assessment

Proposals will be assessed according to the Research Award Ranking Criteria (see attached) by judges selected by the OCS committee.

Proposal submission

Please e-mail proposals to:

The Secretary, Oceania Chondrichthyan Society:

secretary@oceaniasharks.org.au

APPLICATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 31 October 2011. The successful applicant will be notified by the 30 November 2011.

Applications received after the 31 October 2011 or that do not contain all the required information will not be considered.