

GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Jornada Basin LTER (Applications due March 2nd, 2026)

The Jornada Basin LTER (JRN-LTER) is seeking applications for the **JRN-LTER Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)** for research contributing to JRN-LTER research themes. GRFP fellowships are available to graduate students from JRN-LTER-affiliated institutions (not limited to NMSU) through support of the US National Science Foundation Long-Term Ecological Research Program. GRFP support is intended primarily for students working with early career JRN investigators and collaborators.

In 2026, we anticipate being able to support four summer research fellowships (\$8,000 each, nominally budgeted as a \$7,000 stipend and \$1,000 for travel and supplies). Applications are encouraged from graduate students conducting research at the Jornada and related to JRN-LTER research themes and goals. Interested applicants should visit our website (<https://lter.jornada.nmsu.edu>) and discuss research ideas with their JRN-affiliated advisor. Graduate research fellows may be eligible for up to two summers of support.

Priority for funding will be given to applications from students who: (1) are advised by JRN-affiliated early career investigators and collaborators, (2) outline compelling research objectives that align with new and established studies/research themes of the JRN-LTER, and (3) demonstrate potential for publication of journal articles and new JRN datasets.

JRN-LTER Graduate Fellowships must be used to support research at the Jornada. With the agreement of a student mentor, this can include a stipend, travel for fieldwork, and research supplies. Students and mentors should find separate resources for other graduate program costs.

Jornada Graduate Research Fellow Requirements:

1. Before starting new fieldwork at the LTER, submit and have approved a [Jornada Notification of Proposed Research](#) form to Conrad Nelson (cwnelson@nmsu.edu).
2. Participate in person in the annual JRN-LTER Desert Ecology Short Course (2-3 days each summer). Virtual participation is not acceptable unless the course is offered in a virtual-only format.
3. Conduct at least 2 hours of education-related activities with our K-12 outreach partner, the [Asombro Institute for Science Education](#).
4. Provide research data, metadata, and PDF copies of all publications to the Jornada Information Manager (Greg Maurer; gmaurer@nmsu.edu). See JRN-LTER [data policies](#). Also, acknowledge JRN support (wording provided [here](#)) from the Jornada Basin LTER (NSF Award #2425143).
5. Submit a short report on your summer research to the JRN-LTER Program Manager (Kayleigh Getkin; kamber2@nmsu.edu) by October 15th, following the summer fellowship. This short progress report (2-3 pages) will state how your Graduate Fellowship has been (is being) used and include preliminary or final results and outcomes (ex: datasets, analyses, publications, figures, details of data and metadata submitted, or to be submitted, with timeline).
6. Present a seminar to the wider JRN-LTER group, ideally on the campus of NMSU, during the annual Desert Ecology Short Course, or via our Desert Discourse series, prior to graduation.

Students not meeting the above requirements will not be eligible for future JRN-LTER support.

Applicants for JRN-LTER GRFP fellowships do not need to be NMSU students. Students can apply at any time, although evaluation of applications this year will begin **March 2, 2026**. Applications received after that date will be evaluated only if funds remain. Applications will be evaluated by ad hoc committee of JRN-LTER investigators and staff. For questions or to apply, contact Kayleigh Getkin (kamber2@nmsu.edu).

**GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
JORNADA BASIN LTER**

Applicant Name _____ Date _____

Applicant Email _____

Degree Program (MS/PhD) _____

Department _____

Faculty Mentor _____

University _____ Expected Graduation Date _____

Draft Title of Planned Thesis/Dissertation

Attach a short description of your research (3-5 page maximum for new requests, 4-6 page maximum for renewals), including:

- (1) The objectives and key advances for dryland ecology proposed in your research
- (2) Outline methodologies
- (3) The LTER research theme your research relates to
- (4) Products planned from your research (e.g. journal publications, meeting abstracts, data analyses, and data products)
- (5) For renewal requests: (a) include 1-2 pages outlining the results and products from previous LTER fellowship and relationship to your new research proposal, (b) a statement from the Asombro director documenting your previous outreach activities, (c) a statement from the Jornada LTER information manager confirming data and metadata from previous LTER support are on file, and (d) a dated copy of your previous GRFP report (the one submitted by October 15 following the previous year's GRFP).

Email all application materials, compiled into a single file (e.g. PDF)

to: Kayleigh Getkin; kamber2@nmsu.edu

Jornada LTER Project Manager