

## 2021 Simons Early Career Investigator in Marine Microbial Ecology and Evolution Awards

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<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.simonsfoundation.org/grant/simons-early-career-investigator-in-marine-microbial-ecology-and-evolution-awards/">https://www.simonsfoundation.org/grant/simons-early-career-investigator-in-marine-microbial-ecology-and-evolution-awards/</a>
<b>Submission Limitations:</b>	None
<b>Foundation Deadline:</b>	Deadline is <b>November 5, 2020, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time</b>

### Overview

Microbes inhabit and sustain all habitats on Earth. In the oceans, microbes capture solar energy, catalyze biogeochemical transformations of important elements, produce and consume greenhouse gases, and provide the base of the food web.

The purpose of these awards is to help launch the careers of outstanding investigators in the field of marine microbial ecology and evolution who will advance our understanding through experiments, modeling or theory. Investigators must be currently active in research on microbial ecology and/or evolution, excluding research focusing on the microbiomes of animals or plants. Investigators with backgrounds in different fields are encouraged to apply.

### Eligibility

Applicants must hold a Ph.D. or equivalent degree. They must have carried out research in a tenure-track or, for institutions that do not have a tenure track, an equivalent independent position for at least one year and no more than eight years (start date of first independent position must be between November 2012 and November 2019) and must currently hold a tenure-track, tenured, or for institutions with no tenure track, an equivalent independent position in a U.S. or Canadian institution (in a campus within these countries).

They must be the principal investigator (PI) or co-PI currently or within the past year on a research grant on microbial ecology and/or microbial evolution from a national governmental agency or major foundation.

### About the Awards

Grants will be for \$222,000 USD per year, including indirect costs (limited to 20 percent of modified total direct costs), for a period of three years, subject to annual reviews and continuation of research in areas relevant to the purpose of this program.

Appropriate expenses include salary support for the investigator and postdoctoral and graduate research assistants, travel, equipment, supplies and other research expenses. Awards will begin April 1, 2021. Awards will be governed by the Simons Foundation policies, which can be found at <http://www.simonsfoundation.org/funding/policies-and-forms/>.

### Submission of Letter of Intent

Prospective applicants must submit a letter of intent (LOI) by November 5, 2020, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. LOIs must be completed electronically and submitted using forms provided at <https://proposalcentral.altum.com/>.

Please log in as an applicant, go to the GRANT OPPORTUNITIES tab, scroll to SIMONS FOUNDATION and click APPLY NOW for the "Simons Early Career Investigator in Marine Microbial Ecology and Evolution Awards" program. For assistance, please call 800-875-2562 or email [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com).

The following templates must be downloaded and submitted to proposalCENTRAL:

1. Biosketch (two pages, with additional pages allowed for publications and support if needed). Include the start date of first appointment in an independent position, names of graduate and postdoc mentors, a list of all (not selected) publications with the complete reference (up to 10 authors; if greater than 10, give the number of authors), and past, current and pending support, including names of PI and co-PIs.

2. Letter of Intent Narrative, which must include:
  - a. Most important publication. Describe the significance of your most important publication during the last five years and your contribution to the work reported in the paper (250 words). Provide the complete reference for this publication (up to 10 authors).
  - b. Research statement (one page). Describe your long-term research vision. What are the important question(s) that you are addressing? What is unique about your program?
  - c. Research project (two pages, excluding references and up to three figures). Outline a plan for a specific project to provide an example of your approaches and thinking. Provide a title for the project. This year the award will be for general career support, not support for this specific project.
  
3. Two letters of recommendation from former mentors or other scientists, preferably not from your current institution, who work in your field and are familiar with your research. Confidential letters must be submitted through proposalCENTRAL (see instructions available for download in proposalCENTRAL) by October 30, 2020, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

#### Review Process

The review process will include evaluations by experts in the field, who will make recommendations to the Simons Foundation Life Sciences staff. Finalists selected for submission of a full application will be announced by January 20, 2021. All finalists will receive an award pending a complete full application.

Full applications will require submission of a budget and brief budget justification, renewable reagents and data-sharing plan, and signature page with institutional approval by February 19, 2021. Applicants will be notified of decisions by March 12, 2021. The foundation anticipates appointing up to five investigators in 2021.