

The Ocean Intelligence (OI) laboratory led by Dr. John Breier within the School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) is currently recruiting outstanding graduate students as part of the multi-institutional National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Center for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (CCME). The mission of the CCME is to educate and train a new generation of scientists, particularly from underrepresented minority communities, in NOAA-relevant Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines and social sciences, equipped to utilize interdisciplinary approaches to address issues confronting marine and coastal communities.

The specific research in Breier's Ocean Intelligence lab is strongly focused on the use and development of autonomous and remote robotic tools and vehicles. Students accepted into this position can expect to work on projects that involve using and developing cutting edge ocean robotic instruments and techniques including with deep sea remotely operated vehicles, Liquid Robotic Wave Gliders, and near shore autonomous surface drones. Projects will focus on (1) the environmental controls of water quality and chemistry and their influence on the health of marine ecosystems and (2) autonomous observing technology of ocean health parameters to support ocean health prediction. For more information on the OI lab, visit www.breierlab.info.

Successful applicants will be expected to enroll, full time, in UTRGV's Ocean, Coastal and Earth Sciences Masters program working under the supervision of Dr. Chip Breier (project co-PI). This position is funded at a rate of \$16,500 per year plus tuition for two years starting as soon as possible.

Interested applicants should email their CV or resume, unofficial copies of their GPA and GRE scores, a statement of graduate research interest (1-2 pages), and contact information for three professional references to Dr. John Breier (John.Breier@utrgv.edu). Review of applications will begin immediately.

Qualifications:

A Bachelor's degree in chemistry, geology, biology, ecology, environmental science, computer science, or engineering or a related field with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and GRE scores of verbal 153 and quantitative 144 are required. Applicants must be able to communicate effectively both in writing and orally, and must be willing and able to work in difficult conditions (e.g., at sea for many weeks, during inclement weather, extreme heat, knee-deep mud). Prior laboratory, field research, or engineering related experience is preferred but not required. Funding to support students under this announcement is provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce under award #NA16SEC4810009. As per the award terms and conditions, students supported under this program must meet the following eligibility criteria: students must be U.S. citizens, must enroll as full-time postsecondary students, must maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average, and may not engage in employment outside the program and/or academic institution during the period of assistantship. Because this is a position funded by NOAA's Educational Partnership Program for Minority Serving Institutions (EPP-MSI), preference will be given to students representing minorities.