

JUDGING CRITERIA

Proposals will be rigorously reviewed by a panel from Aquatec's product management, engineering, and marketing teams. The evaluation will focus on the proposal's scientific merit and innovation, the experiment's practicality and feasibility, and a well-demonstrated need for the specific instrument requested. The judging will consider the clarity of research objectives, the robustness of the deployment plan, and the potential impact of the data to be gathered in advancing marine research goals.

ELIGIBILITY

The Programme welcomes applications from:

- Graduate students engaged in higher degree studies that necessitate research as a course component.
- University researchers within the first two years post-achievement of an MSc, PhD, or equivalent qualification.

Supervisory references may be solicited to ensure the relevance and feasibility of the proposed research. While applicants are encouraged to apply for multiple awards to increase their chances, a maximum of one award per successful applicant will be granted. Joint applications are permissible; however, one participant must be designated as the lead researcher and primary contact.

TERMS

Grant recipients are required to:

- Acknowledge Aquatec Group Ltd and the name of the instruments in any published work or presentations on the research conducted with the provided instrument.
- Share all data gathered using the instruments with Aquatec to aid in the company's ongoing technical and commercial development. This includes permitting Aquatec to use such data for promotional purposes, such as on their website or in commercial literature.
- Return the equipment to Aquatec by the specified instrument loan return date within the 2024 calendar year.
- Include images of the instruments in use along with the project report. These visuals are valuable for Aquatec's documentation and promotional materials.

The travel grant will be disbursed as an ex-gratia payment after the loaned instrument has been returned and a comprehensive project summary report, including images of the instrument in use, has been submitted to Aquatec no later than 31 January 2025.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AWARD HOLDER

Award recipients must:

- Bear any applicable taxes and temporary importation fees associated with the instrument loan.
- Ensure the instrument is fully insured for its replacement

cost for the duration it is in their possession and during its return transit to Aquatec. The cost of any instrument damage or loss will be recovered by Aquatec.

- Cover the cost of return delivery of the instrument to Aquatec.
- Ensure the instrument is fully insured for its replacement cost during its tenure with the awardee and in transit back to Aquatec to safeguard against potential financial liabilities in case of damage or loss

APPLICATION PROCESS

STEP 1

Prepare a brief research project proposal of no more than 500 words in the downloadable Submission Form, including the following:

- Research aims
- Planned deployment/use of instrument/timing of instrument deployment
- How the instrument will be used to achieve the research aims
- How the results of the work will be published.

STEP 2

Send the proposal and a copy of your CV to awards@aquatecgroup.com by May 3, 2024.

FAQ's

Q: How do I know if I can apply for an Aquatec Equipment Award?

A: Eligibility criteria are detailed in the programme's documentation. Should you need further clarification, please send your queries to awards@aquatecgroup.com.

Q: Can a group of researchers apply for an award?

A: Yes, group applications are welcome. However, one member must be designated as the lead applicant and will be the main point of contact throughout the award process.

Q: When do I have to undertake my research?

A: Please include your proposed research timings in your application to align with instrument availability. Award notifications will be made by June, with instruments available for deployment within the 2024 calendar year.

Q: Does my research have to be conducted in the country I am applying from?

A: There are no geographical restrictions on where the research can be conducted.

Q: What happens if the instrument is lost or damaged in my possession?

A: Award recipients must ensure the instrument is insured for its full replacement value until it is safely returned to Aquatec. This typically involves arranging temporary insurance through your university or research institution.