TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY CORPUS CHRISTI | HARTE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Furgason Visiting Fellow in Marine Policy & Law

The Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI) invites applications for a four-month in-person fellowship as part of a new program aimed at advancing a tri-national understanding of marine protected area (MPA) law and policy across the United States, Mexico, and Cuba. The selected fellow will work directly with the Endowed Chair for Marine Policy & Law and the Chair for Coral Reef & Ocean Health. The Fellowship could be renewed, depending on results.

About the Position

- **Duration:** 4 months (January–April 2026)
- **Location:** Corpus Christi, Texas (in-person)
- **Stipend:** $19,500 (paid over the 4-month term)
- **Eligibility:** Early-career attorney with demonstrated experience in natural resource conservation and strong research and writing skills

Primary Responsibilities

- Conduct legal research and synthesis of marine protected area laws and policies in Mexico and Cuba
- Focus on topics including water quality, fishing rights, ecosystem protection, and enforcement
- Prepare a bilingual (Spanish and English) policy report in collaboration with HRI attorneys
- Contribute to multi-national discussions and stakeholder engagement led by HRI

Required Qualifications

- Juris Doctor (J.D.) or equivalent law degree
- Strong research and legal writing skills (including citation-based scholarship)
- Demonstrated interest in marine, environmental, or natural resource law
- Fluency in English
- Familiarity with legal systems and frameworks in the Mexico and Cuba
- Mexican national
- Mexican resident

Preferred Qualifications

- Proficiency in Spanish, especially related to legal research and writing
- Experience working with marine protected areas, ocean governance, or international environmental law
- Ability to work independently and in interdisciplinary teams

How to Apply

Please submit the following materials in English as a single PDF file to Kristina Alexander at Kristina.Alexander@tamucc.edu with the subject line:
"Furgason Visiting Fellow in Marine Policy & Law – Application"
Required Materials:

1. Cover letter describing your interest and relevant experience

2. Curriculum vitae (CV)
3. Writing sample (legal writing demonstrating analysis; citations required)
4. Contact information for two professional references (which can include professors)

Application review begins: *November 15, 2025*
**Position remains open until filled.*

About HRI
The Harte Research Institute, located at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, is an interdisciplinary research institute committed to the long-term health and sustainability of the Gulf. Celebrating its 25th anniversary, HRI serves as a hub for world-class science, policy development, law, and international collaboration.

HRI houses several signature programs, including the Marine Policy & Law program and the Coral Reef & Ocean Health program—both of which will support and collaborate with the Ferguson Visiting Fellow.

Marine Policy & Law Program
This program examines how laws and regulations shape the use, conservation, and development of Gulf coastal and marine ecosystems. By analyzing existing legal frameworks, HRI attorneys identify policy opportunities that improve management outcomes and protect natural resources. Research focuses on topics such as water quality**,** fisheries management**,** energy development**,** and migratory bird conservation**.** Policy findings are shared widely with the public through *Third Coast Lines*, a legal publication written for non-lawyer audiences.

Coral Reef & Ocean Health Program
The Coral Reef & Ocean Health Lab advances science-based solutions to challenges facing fragile marine ecosystems while providing exceptional training for future leaders. Its research spans local to global scales and focuses on understanding organism–environment interactions, particularly the impacts of environmental change and other human activities. The program combines experimental and field-based research to identify factors that drive resilience and inform effective conservation and management actions. Ultimately, the goal is to sustain the Gulf's unique marine ecosystems and enhance decision-making for managers, policymakers, and coastal communities.