The Polynesia Education and Research Laboratories (PEARL) short-term research awards provide airfare up to $800 and living/laboratory expenses up to $2,200 for graduate student thesis research based out of the Richard B. Gump South Pacific Research Station (http://nature.berkeley.edu/gump) in Moorea, French Polynesia. Living expenses are limited to lodging, while laboratory expenses may include bench fees, lab supplies, and scuba tank fills, as well as car and boat use. These awards are intended as seed money and are not normally renewable. Up to $1,000 of additional funding is also available to support living expenses for the student’s faculty advisor, or for special instrumentation and other equipment needs (that will remain the property of PEARL).

PEARL Short-Term Fellowships are highly competitive awards for outstanding researchers and are intended to lead to long-term graduate research in Polynesia. Applicants may be part of a faculty member’s research project, but the project should be independent from that of the senior research worker. Faculty advisors are encouraged to visit the student during their field season. Students receiving funds from this fellowship will acknowledge PEARL support in their publications.
Awardees are expected to base their operations on Moorea. A weekly seminar/lab meeting will be scheduled for PEARL researchers and awardees should attend this when their research schedule permits.

**Eligibility:** Students who are likely to conduct a majority of their graduate field research in French Polynesia are strongly favored. A majority of the fellowships are restricted to students from the Berkeley campus but at least one will be awarded to any student within the University of California system.

Applications will be accepted in all fields of natural sciences including the social sciences and public health; possible areas of research include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. **Ethnobiology:** to work with the ’Ātiti’a Education Center, a new unit of PEARL that brings together scientists and local community experts in Moorea. The center includes a traditional meeting house and a cultural garden.

2. **Invasion biology:** the impact of introduced species on native ecosystems

3. **Human ecology:** contemporary, historic, and prehistoric interactions among humans, their biological and physical environment, including studies of environmental socioeconomics, sustainable development, and natural resource management

4. **Biogeochemistry:** biological, geochemical, geological, and physical processes particularly those related to nutrient cycling and water in a coupled terrestrial and marine landscape

5. **Medical ecology:** how changes in the biological and physical environment have and continue to influence public health in Polynesia (e.g., disease vectors, nutrition, drug resistance)

6. **Coral reef biology:** ecological relationships, evolutionary adaptations, and population biology of Moorea’s lagoon ecosystem

7. **Evolutionary biology:** adaptation and change in island environments.

**Application Review begins Friday, 15 March 2002**

Applications are accepted by email, as PDF attachments, only. For full consideration applications must be sent by midnight (French Polynesian Time) 15 March 2002. Applicants should send a CV, a two page research statement (introduction, methods, schedule, future directions), and a letter of recommendation to: Dr. Neil Davies (ndavies@nature.berkeley.edu), Chair, PEARL Fellowship Committee, UC Berkeley. Decisions will be announced by email before 1 April 2002. Successful applicants must complete their fieldwork within 12 months (i.e., by 1 April, 2003).