

InterTribal Buffalo Council – Advancing Markets for Tribal Buffalo

CSMTB-ITBC Graduate Student Research Fellowship

[Application Link](#)

Duration: September 2025 – May 2026, Hybrid

Description: The *Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP)* grant is a 3-year grant awarded by USDA to InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC) to aid in the *Recognition of the Role of Tribal Buffalo Production as a Climate-Smart Commodity*. This project seeks to recognize Tribal buffalo management and its importance in the face of climate-change and aid in the development of a market for buffalo products as a climate-smart commodity. In addition to the AMP grant, there is support for a Native Graduate student to focus on a research project regarding buffalo and their role in mitigating climate change. The research project is of the graduate student's choosing but it must support the project goals and 100% of the graduate project shall be focused on the project efforts. The graduate student will choose a research project throughout the fellowship related to the grant topics.

Program Goals: Provide an interdisciplinary experience for a chosen individual to gain exposure to hands-on work in the field, conservation science, and data collection while working with Tribes, their partners, and buffalo. The experience will also include learning grant management, coordination, working with budgets, marketing, climate adaption, agricultural/range management practices, Tribal policy, and food sovereignty.

Amount: Support for seven months, September 2025-May 2026, totaling \$75,000.00 in stipend, and tuition support.

- \$19/hr for stipend
- \$53,000 for tuition support

Responsibilities:

The graduate student will assist with tasks relating to the mission of the project.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Assist the AMP Technical Services Provider and other AMP team members during project implementation.
 - Field data collection and monitoring with Monitoring, Measuring, Recording, and Verification (MMRV) plan:
 - Soil sampling
 - Grass and soil assessments
 - Analytics: GIS and writing reports
 - Interviewing
 - Aid in analytics and data entry
- Aid in the development of Climate-smart, buffalo-specific management practices
- Assist with the development and delivery of technical training sessions for Tribes

- Other opportunities and experiences through shadowing included: marketing, grant management, Tribal policy, food sovereignty
- Present to ITBC Board
- Additional duties as assigned

Working Conditions

- Travel and outdoor field work
- This position requires physical exertion such as bending, crouching, stooping, stretching, reaching, lifting equipment (up to 50lbs)
- Must be able to spend long days outdoors in various weather conditions:
- Be able to work in rugged, uneven terrains, including wet, muddy, rough, uneven, rocky, grassy areas
- Individuals should be capable of working alone, with others, and during early morning hours of the day

Eligibility:

Academic

Have an [undergrad] degree in natural resource management, natural sciences, biology, range management, environmental science, Tribal Policy or related degree.

Student Status

Be a graduate student enrolled (full-time) at an accredited institution within the United States.

Grade Point Average

Maintain a 2.5 of 4.0 or higher.

Tribal Citizenship

Applicants must be an enrolled citizen or descendant of an enrolled citizen of a Federally recognized Tribe or Alaska Native Village.

ITBC will implement a preference for applicants that provide proof of enrollment in a federally-recognized Tribe, such as a Tribal Identification Card or a Certificate of Indian Blood that indicates Tribal enrollment. Applicants may also provide proof of descendancy in a federally-recognized Tribe through evidence of parental enrollment.

Application

- Personal Information
 - Name, contact information, address, current academic enrollment
- Resume
- Transcripts, undergrad transcripts
 - Class schedule
- Proof of Tribal Citizenship
- Letters of Recommendation (2)
- Essays:
 - Prompts: Word limit 100-750

- Interest in conservation/what brought you to this possible career path?
- What do you hope to gain from this fellowship experience?
- What do buffalo mean to you?
- What are your education and career goals? How do they relate to the field of conservation through an Indigenous lens?
- Anything else you might like to share? (optional)

Timeline

- Application Opens: September 13th, 2025
- Application Closes: September 27th, 2025, at 11:59 pm MDT
- Application Reviews and Interviews start: Interviews will be scheduled on a rolling basis but will end the week of the 27th.
- Selection: By the end of September.
- Start of Fellowship: October 2025 (Flexible start date due to circumstances)

Selection and Notification

The chosen applicant will be notified by the first week of October. Details of the fellowship will be shared as well as contract documents and tax forms. Applicants should expect to start the fellowship on September 1st and begin coordination of travel and various duties immediately. There will be a short orientation prior to the beginning of the fellowship that will introduce the fellow to ITBC, our partners, and expectations throughout the fellowship.

Disbursement

ITBC will distribute stipends to the individuals through temporary employment agreements or contracts. The individual will be expected to fill out relevant tax forms and ITBC personal forms. The individual will also be expected to adhere to ITBC policies and procedures during the duration of their employment. Tuition support will be sent directly to the individual's academic institution.

Have questions or want to learn more? Call 605-394-9730 or 605-441-8677 between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm MST to talk to Michael Borucke or email at michael@itbcbuffalonation.org.