2018 Call for Nominations
Master’s and Professional Degree Fellows

Sustainability encompasses solutions-driven scholarship and practice that seeks to safeguard our planet’s life-support systems and enhance well-being for present and future generations. The field is defined by the problems it addresses rather than the disciplines it employs. It draws from multiple disciplines of the natural, social, engineering, design, and health sciences; from the professions and humanities; and from practical field experience in business, government, and civil society. Within this framework, there are many relevant areas with the following being the focus for this Program: sustainable food systems, sustainable cities, sustainable infrastructure, sustainable mobility, sustainable consumption, and sustainable energy systems.

Overview

Made possible by The Dow Chemical Company Foundation, the Dow Sustainability Fellows Program at the University of Michigan (U-M) supports full-time graduate students at the university who are committed to finding interdisciplinary, actionable, and meaningful sustainability solutions on local-to-global scales. The program aspires to prepare future sustainability leaders to make a positive difference in organizations worldwide. See: http://sustainability.umich.edu/dow.

This year, 34 masters/professional degree fellows will be selected from a pool of candidates nominated by schools and colleges throughout U-M. The cohort will begin in January 2018 and conclude in December of the same year. As a recipient of this honor, each Dow Fellow at the masters/professional level receives up to $20,000 to help support their studies. Fellows are required to complete an interdisciplinary team project and engage in monthly seminars and related activities to broaden perspectives and facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration. Each fellows’ team may receive up to $3,000 in additional support for project development and is eligible to compete for up to $50,000 through the Dow Distinguished Awards for Interdisciplinary Sustainability.

Requirements and Guidelines

Eligibility:

a. Full-time graduate students pursuing terminal master’s and other professional degrees at U-M Ann Arbor campus are eligible for nomination.

b. A student is eligible for only one (year-long) Dow Sustainability Master’s & Professional Fellowship.

c. Fellows must reside in the Ann Arbor area for the duration of the fellowship period (see
Fellowship Selection: Applications are independently reviewed by a faculty committee composed of representatives from all nominating schools and colleges. Applications will be rated according to the following criteria:

a. Degree to which work or interests are relevant to sustainability
b. Interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of work and professional interests
c. Leadership, productivity, and quality of applicant's prior work and experiences
d. Interdisciplinary balance and diverse perspectives in the cohort
e. Extent to which program participation will be a transformative, as opposed to incremental, learning experience

The Program Director, Professor Margaret Wooldridge, will use the independent reviews as the primary basis for selection. Per program goals, Dr. Wooldridge will also consider disciplinary balance in determining the makeup of the final cohort, which includes a goal of 30% of the total awardees either currently enrolled in the College of Engineering or possessing an undergraduate degree in engineering.

Fellowship Period: The appointment is for 12 months (January-December).

Fellowship Award: Each Master's/Professional Fellow receives up to $20,000, contingent upon satisfactory participation in the program, with one $10,000 payment at the start of each of the winter and fall semesters. Award payments will be transferred to academic units prior to the start of the term for posting to student accounts. These awards are intended to offset tuition and registration fees. A fellow who would like to use the funds for any other purpose should consult with the financial aid office in their home unit to determine if payments can be posted as “refundable,” which may have federal and state tax implications for the fellow.

Requirements and Responsibilities – All Master's/Professional Fellows Must:

a. Reside in the Ann Arbor area for the duration of the academic year during the fellowship period (May-August excluded). Reasonable absences for field work may be allowed, but must be disclosed to and approved by the Dow Fellowship Program Director in advance. Awards may be revoked if the fellow fails to fully disclose and seek approval for field work absences.

b. Be enrolled and in good standing in a U-M – Ann Arbor terminal master's or professional degree program throughout their fellowship appointment.

c. Actively participate in the four program workshops/seminars that occur throughout the year, a mentoring activity, and at least two additional co-curricular offerings from the program. Fellows who are unable to attend a formal workshop/seminar for any reason must notify the Dow Fellowship Program Staff in advance.

b. Be enrolled and in good standing in a U-M – Ann Arbor terminal master's or professional degree program throughout their fellowship appointment.

c. Actively participate in the four program workshops/seminars that occur throughout the year, a mentoring activity, and at least two additional co-curricular offerings from the program. Fellows who are unable to attend a formal workshop/seminar for any reason must notify the Dow Fellowship Program Staff in advance.

d. Participate in team formation activities and form interdisciplinary teams (4-6 fellows each) to develop and execute a project, ideally for a client, including creating a comprehensive stance or analysis of options around a challenge of the team’s choosing
within the areas of sustainable food systems, cities, infrastructure, mobility, consumption, and energy systems. Project outputs will include a white paper and an oral presentation of project outcomes at the conclusion of the project. Teams will also present a poster at the annual Dow Sustainability Fellows Program Symposium. Individual fellows are encouraged to work with their home schools or colleges and explore opportunities aligning their project outcomes to degree requirements.

e. Abide by all applicable U-M policies (e.g., Academic Integrity, Conflict of Interest/Commitment Procurement and Expenses, and Research with Human Participants), including any non-academic codes and polices of their respective units and the academic integrity policy of the Program for the entirety of their engagement in the Dow Sustainability Fellows Program, all fellows. Failure to adhere to these policies may result in revocation of their fellowship.

Application Procedure: Each school or college develops its own process for identifying their students who are eligible, interested in, and competitive for nomination to the master’s/professional degree component of the Dow Sustainability Fellows program. Each school or college may nominate up to 10 students for consideration, with nominations due to Nicole Berg at nberg@umich.edu by Monday, October 30, 2017. Each school or college should notify nominees of their nomination, but nominees will also be contacted by a representative from the Dow Sustainability Fellows Program and asked to:

- Provide names and email addresses for reference letters no later than Thursday, November 2, 2017.
- Complete a formal application package by Tuesday, November 7, 2017.
- All application materials must be submitted online (link to be provided by program staff).

Faculty Reviewers: All schools or colleges submitting nominations must also identify one faculty member with sustainability-related expertise to serve on the application review panel. This cannot be the same individual who currently represents the school or college on the Graham Institute Executive Committee (EC). Reviewers must recuse themselves from reviewing applications submitted by students with whom they work, wrote a recommendation letter, or in any other case where there may be a conflict of interest in reviewing student fellowship applications.

Required Application Materials: Nominated students must submit application packages with a clear, legible copy uploaded to the website as single PDF file with the following:

a. A statement of educational goals and planned post-graduate studies or work of no more than 800-words written by the student, that describe:
   i. The student’s field of study and career aspirations and how they relate to sustainability (approximately 200 words).
   ii. How participation in the Dow Sustainability Fellows Program will be a transformative, as opposed to incremental, learning experience (approximately 200 words).
   iii. A challenge or opportunity related to an area of work and articulate how it relates to sustainability and would benefit from interdisciplinary approaches (approximately 400 words).

b. A short, critical thinking essay (no more than 500 words) answering the following
question: “In what ways does fostering a diverse and inclusive community affect pathways to sustainability?”

c. A brief curriculum vitae (CV) describing the candidate’s:
   i. Educational background
   ii. Relevant work experience
   iii. Major awards and honors received
   iv. Membership in professional organizations (if applicable)
   v. Complete list of publications and presentations (if applicable)
   vi. Service to the community and/or other extra-curricular activities

d. Transcripts of all graduate and undergraduate coursework. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable, but they must be legible.

The names and email contact information for at least two references, one of which must be a faculty member from the student’s current school or college willing to submit a reference on the student’s behalf, by Wednesday, November 15, 2017. Program staff will contact the references to obtain the letters. These reference names and email addresses must be provided online by the nominee no later than 5:00 p.m., Thursday, November 2, 2017.

DEADLINES:

- **October 30, 2017, 5:00 PM:** Schools and colleges nominate up to 10 eligible, interested and competitive candidate students
- **November 2, 2017, 5:00 PM:** Nominees provide names and email addresses for all references
- **November 7, 2017, 5:00 PM:** Nominated students complete and submit their self-nomination application packages
- **November 15, 2017, 5:00 PM:** Letters of reference submitted on behalf of the nominated student
- **December 7, 2017, 5:00 PM:** Faculty Review Committee completes their review of candidates and makes recommendations to the Program Director for approximately 34 awardees.
- **December 15, 2017, 5:00 PM:** for notification of Dow Fellows to be completed

**Dow Fellows Program Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement**

Supporting sustainability scholars, the Dow Sustainability Fellows Program is aligned with the U-M commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Program efforts focus on ensuring that each student thrives. Scholars learn that diversity is key to individual empowerment, and the advancement of sustainability knowledge, learning and leadership at U-M and worldwide.
See: [http://sustainability.umich.edu/dow](http://sustainability.umich.edu/dow)

**NOTE: All applications will be handled confidentially.**

See the Dow Sustainability Fellows Program website [http://sustainability.umich.edu/dow](http://sustainability.umich.edu/dow) for additional details.