Dow Sustainability Fellows Program
Masters and Professional Degree Call for Nominations

Program Overview
Established through a gift from The Dow Chemical Company, the University of Michigan's Dow Sustainability Fellows Program (program) supports full-time graduate students and postdoctoral scholars 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.

Each year, 40 masters/professional degree fellows are selected from a pool of candidates nominated by Schools and Colleges throughout the University. Each cohort begins in January and concludes 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 his/her studies. Fellows are required to engage in an interdisciplinary team project and in monthly seminars and related activities designed to share and expand perspectives and facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration. Each team of Fellows may receive up to an additional $5,000 for project development.

Requirements and Guidelines
Eligibility:

a. Full-time graduate students pursuing terminal masters and other professional degrees at U-M – Ann Arbor (e.g., architecture, arts, business, engineering, environment, public health, law, medicine, public policy, social work, urban planning, etc) are eligible for nomination.
b. A student is eligible for only one Dow Masters/Professional Degree Fellowship award.
c. Fellows must reside in the Ann Arbor area for the duration of the Fellowship period (see below).

Fellowship Selection: Applications go through an independent review by a faculty committee composed of representatives from all nominating Schools/Colleges. Applications will be rated according to the following criteria:

a. Degree to which work/interests are relevant to sustainability
b. Interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of work and professional interests
c. Demonstrated leadership, productivity and quality of applicant's prior work and experiences
d. Extent to which program participation will be a transformative, as opposed to incremental, learning experience

The Program Director (Don Scavia) will use the independent reviews as the primary basis for selection. Per program goals, the Program Director will also consider disciplinary balance in determining the makeup of the final cohort.

Fellowship Period: The appointment is for 12 months (January - December).
**Fellowship Award:** Each Fellow receives up to $20,000, contingent upon satisfactory participation in the program, with one $10,000 payment at the conclusion of each of the winter and fall semesters. Award payments will be posted to student accounts and may be used to cover tuition and registration fees. Upon request by the Fellow, payments can be posted to student accounts as "refundable", which means they can be used for any purpose, but may have federal and state tax implications for the Fellow.

**Fellows Requirements and Responsibilities:**

a. Fellows must 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 Program Director at least one month in advance. Awards may be revoked if the Fellow fails to fully disclose and seek approval for field work absences.

b. Throughout the appointment, fellows must be enrolled in the U-M program cited in their application.

c. Fellows must actively participate in the program workshops/seminars that occur approximately monthly from January - April and again from September-December. While participation in all program activities is strongly encouraged, participation in 100% of the formal workshops/seminars and at least 25% of the informal workshop/seminars are required to maintain fellowship funding. Fellows who are unable to attend a formal workshop/seminar for any reason must notify the Program Co-chair (Anne Wallin) in advance.

d. Fellows must form interdisciplinary teams (4-6 fellows each) to develop and execute a project (ideally for a client) that develops a comprehensive stance or analysis of options on a particular sustainability challenge of the team’s choosing. Project products will include a white paper and an oral presentation of project outcomes at the conclusion of the project. Individual Fellows are encouraged to work with their home Schools/Colleges to see if there are options available to match degree requirements to their Fellows project outcomes.

**Application Procedure:** Each School/College develops its own process for identifying their students who are eligible, interested in, and competitive for nomination to the masters/professional degree component of the Dow Sustainability Fellows program. Each School/College may nominate up to 10 students for consideration, with nominations due to Anne Wallin at apwallin@umich.edu by October 24, 2014. Each School/College should notify nominees of their nomination, but nominees will also be contacted by the Graham Institute and asked to complete a formal application package by November 7, 2014.

**Faculty Reviewers:** All Schools/Colleges submitting nominations must also identify one faculty member with sustainability-related expertise to serve on the application review panel. Note: This cannot be the same individual who currently represents the School/College on the Graham Institute Executive Committee (EC). For student fellowships, 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.

**Required Application Materials:** Nominated students must submit application packages on-line (link to be provided by the Graham Institute) and must include a single PDF file uploaded in black and white (i.e., no color images or fonts) that includes:

a. A statement of no more than 800 words written by the student, that describes:
   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 Fellows program will be a transformative, as opposed to incremental, learning experience (approximately 200 words).
iii. A challenge or opportunity related to the applicant’s field of work, with an articulation of how it relates to sustainability and would benefit from interdisciplinary approaches. (approximately 400 words).

b. A brief curriculum vitae 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

c. Transcripts of all graduate and undergraduate coursework. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable.
d. The names and contact information for at least 2 references, one of which must be from faculty from the student’s current School/College, who are willing to submit a reference on the student’s behalf by November 21, 2014. The Graham Institute will contact the references to obtain the letters.

DEADLINES:
5 p.m., October 27, 2014 for Schools/Colleges to nominate up to 10 eligible, interested and competitive candidate students.

5 p.m., November 7, 2014 for nominated students to complete and submit their self-nomination application packages.

5 p.m., November 21, 2014 for letters of reference to be submitted on the nominated student’s behalf.

5 p.m., December 12, 2014 for the Faculty Review Committee to complete their review of candidates and to make recommendations to the Program Director for the approximately 40 awardees.

5 p.m., December 21, 2014 for notification of Dow Fellows to be completed.

NOTE: All applications will be handled confidentially.

For additional program details, please refer to http://sustainability.umich.edu/education/dow/masters