

Postdoctoral Fellowships 2016 Request for Proposals

The University of Michigan defines sustainability as solutions-driven scholarship and practice that seeks to safeguard the planet's life-support systems and enhance quality of life 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.

Program Overview

The [Dow Sustainability Fellows Program at the University of Michigan](#) 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.

The program currently seeks candidates working on sustainability issues at the interface of the social sciences/humanities and natural/physical/engineering sciences to become full-time U-M postdoctoral scholars. These 2-year fellowships are designed to support a new generation of sustainability scholars who understand the necessity of collaborating across disciplines and sectors to address and solve complex sustainability challenges. Each Fellow will be appointed within a home academic unit while also participating in interdisciplinary cohort activities. The program provides a unique opportunity for fellows to interact intensively with interesting, talented people across disciplines; to learn skills and gain knowledge that will enrich subsequent research and practice; and to engage in an intellectual environment with unique professional opportunities. Participation in the program includes regular interaction with the current cohort of [Dow Postdoctoral Sustainability Fellows](#) and [Distinguished Faculty Fellows in Sustainability](#), spanning a wide range of research areas and U-M Schools, Colleges, and Departments. Fellowships are funded through a gift from [The Dow Chemical Company](#) and support from U-M home academic units. The program is administered by U-M's [Graham Sustainability Institute](#).

Application Timetable & Process

November 2, 2015 at 5:00p.m. EST	Intent to Apply due
November 16, 2015 at 5:00p.m. EST	Full application due
November 23, 2015 at 5:00p.m. EST	Recommendation letters due
February 2016	Applicants notified of status
September 2016	Fellowship begins

Requirements and Guidelines

Eligibility: The [Dow Postdoctoral Sustainability Fellows Program](#) is accepting applications from qualified candidates who are at the beginning of their academic careers, having received their Ph.D. or comparable professional or artistic degree within four years of the fellowship start date (i.e., between September 1, 2012 and September 1, 2016). In rare circumstances, this timeframe may be relaxed, but candidates must consult with the program before completing an application if their degree was awarded before September 1, 2012. Non-U.S. citizens may apply.

Successful candidates will come from a wide range of disciplines/backgrounds. The following list of potential study areas/topics is intended to convey the breadth of fellowship areas and should NOT be considered an exhaustive list:

- Building communities that sustain healthy families
- Green buildings, urban infrastructure, development, mobility
- Sustainable food and water systems
- Corporate sustainability strategies and sustainable markets
- Behavioral and cultural change
- Economics and policy
- Energy supply, demand and transmission
- Clean technology: Nanotechnology, bio-based materials
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and their services
- Natural resources management, extraction, and conservation
- Public health: risk communication, and community engagement
- Decision-making in the public and private sectors

Fellowship Selection: The proposed home academic units will review applications and recommend Postdoctoral Fellows to the [Distinguished Faculty Fellows in Sustainability](#) at the University of Michigan, an interdisciplinary community of scholars from across the university. The Distinguished Faculty Fellows will conduct a final review and make a recommendation to the [Program Director](#), who will make the final decision with regard to fellowship selection.

Fellowship Term: This is a two-year fellowship that follows the United States academic cycle (begins in September and ends in August).

Fellowship Award: Each Fellow receives an annual stipend of at least \$52,000, U-M medical and dental benefits, and access to up to \$2,000/year for research and related travel.

Fellowship Requirements and Responsibilities:

- If the home academic unit requires teaching as part of the appointment, the teaching requirement would typically not exceed one course per academic year.
- Fellows must actively participate in monthly seminars/dinners and monthly colloquia and occasional program workshops, which take place between September and May each year.
- Fellows must be in residence in the Ann Arbor area for the duration of the fellowship. Reasonable absences for field work may be allowed but must be disclosed and approved by the program director in advance. Awards may be revoked if the fellow fails to fully disclose and seek approval for extended field work absences.
- Fellows are required to acknowledge their Fellowship in any publications that result from work done during their tenure.
- Fellows are encouraged to mentor doctoral and masters/professional degree Dow fellows as appropriate.
- Fellows are strongly encouraged to collaborate with other Dow Fellows (doctoral and postdoctoral) and with the Distinguished Faculty Fellows, including through submissions to the Michigan Journal of Sustainability (<http://sustainability.umich.edu/mjs/>).
- At the end of the fellowship, Fellows are required to submit to the program a written report on their activities and accomplishments during the fellowship. Additional reporting responsibilities may be required by the home academic unit.

Application:

Intent to Apply deadline: November 2, 2015 at 5:00p.m. EST

Application deadline: November 16, 2015 at 5:00p.m. EST

All application materials, except the two letters of recommendation, must be submitted by the candidate online at <http://graham.umich.edu/application-request/33678>.

Note that creating an application serves as an **Intent to Apply** and must be completed before a full application can be submitted. The information required includes applicant contact information, preferred home academic unit, and the names and contact information for two letter writers. Submission of this information (Intent to Apply) will trigger an automatic email message to the letter writers with instructions for how to upload their letters electronically (required). ***It is important to complete an Intent to Apply submission as early as possible to allow letter writers sufficient time to submit their letters.***

Application materials include (the first three items will be submitted as a single .pdf file):

1) Career goal statement

This statement of two pages or less (double spaced) should include:

- How the candidate's research and career goals/interests extend beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries.
- How participation in the Dow Fellows program will enhance the candidate's ability to pursue and engage in impactful sustainability work.

2) Curriculum vitae

The curriculum vitae should include the following components:

- Educational background
- Relevant business or professional experience
- Academic honors
- Membership in professional organizations
- Complete list of publications and presentations

3) Research Proposal

A research proposal, up to three double-spaced pages including references (12 pt font and 1 inch margins), should outline the candidate's research aims for the postdoctoral fellowship and should clearly extend beyond their dissertation research. Proposals should demonstrate a clear connection to sustainability themes and move beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries. **Please keep in mind that project proposals will be read and evaluated by experts from a variety of fields. Clarity to a broad audience is critical.**

4) U-M home academic unit

Each Fellow will have a home academic unit within a U-M School or College Department during their time at the University of Michigan. Candidates must indicate their preferred home academic unit (*not to exceed 2*) as part of the application. Candidates can identify U-M academic units by visiting <http://umich.edu/academics/>.

5) Faculty Advisor

Candidates must identify tenured or tenure-track faculty members (*not to exceed 2*) doing sustainability-related work at U-M who would be able to effectively assess the quality of their scholarly achievements. Candidates can identify appropriate U-M faculty by searching our Sustainability Experts database, which is available online at: <http://graham.umich.edu/experts>. Candidates are strongly encouraged to connect with these faculty members before applying for the fellowship.

6) Letters of Recommendation

Two letters of recommendation are required from scholars who are able to describe the candidate's qualifications for conducting sustainability-focused postdoctoral research that extends beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries. Names and contact information for two letter writers is a required part of the Intent to Apply submission. Completion and submission of the Intent to Apply will give the applicant access to the full application form and the letter writers listed will receive an email with a web link and instructions for uploading recommendation letters directly. The recommendation letter submission deadline is November 23, 2015.

Notifications:

Applicants will receive an email confirmation after submitting a full application. All application materials and evaluations will remain confidential. All applicants will be notified of their status by mid-February 2016. However, the review committee is not able to provide feedback on individual applications.

Questions may be submitted to: dow-postdoc@umich.edu