

Dow Sustainability Fellows Program

Postdoctoral Fellowship 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.

The Dow Postdoctoral Sustainability Fellows Program is administered by the Graham Sustainability Institute (Graham) at the University of Michigan (U-M) to support full-time U-M postdoctoral scholars committed to finding interdisciplinary, actionable, and meaningful sustainability solutions on local-to-global scales. The program aspires to prepare future sustainability scholars and leaders to make a positive difference in organizations worldwide. These 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. They provide 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 engage in an intellectual environment with unique professional opportunities. Fellowships are funded through a grant from The Dow Chemical Company and support from U-M units (could be Schools/Colleges, Departments or Centers, depending on the research area).

The program seeks candidates working on sustainability issues at the interface of the social sciences/humanities and natural/physical/engineering sciences.

Requirements and Guidelines

Eligibility: The Program is accepting applications from qualified candidates who are at the beginning of their academic careers, having received the Ph.D. or comparable professional or artistic degree within four years of the fellowship start date (i.e., between September 1, 2011 and September 1, 2015). In rare circumstances, this timeframe can be relaxed, but you must consult with the program (dow-postdoc@umich.edu) before completing your application if your degree was awarded before September 1, 2011. Non-US 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

The current cohort of [Dow Postdoctoral Sustainability Fellows](#) and [Distinguished Faculty Fellows](#) also provide an indication of the breadth of topic areas of interest, along with the broad representation of U-M Schools and Departments participating in the program.

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 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 can be for no more than one course per academic year.
- Fellows must be in residence in the Ann Arbor area for the academic year (September – May) and participate in Dow Postdoctoral Program activities. 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 must actively participate in monthly seminars/dinners and monthly colloquia and occasional program workshops.
- At the end of each fellowship year, Fellows are required to submit a written report on their activities and accomplishments during the year.
- 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 encouraged to collaborate with each other and with the Distinguished Faculty Fellows, including through submissions to the Michigan Journal of Sustainability (<http://graham.umich.edu/mjs/>).

Application:

Application deadline: November 17, 2014

All application materials, except the two letters of recommendation, must be submitted by the candidate online at graham.umich.edu/application-request/30237.

Note that an *Intent to Apply* form must be submitted before the application form can be accessed. The information required on this form includes the names and contact information for the two letter writers. Submission of the Intent to Reply form will trigger an automatic email message to letter writers with instructions for how to submit letters electronically (required). ***It is important to submit Intent to Apply forms as early as possible to allow letter writers sufficient time to submit their letters.***

Application materials include:

- Application form
- Career goal statement
- Curriculum vitae
- Research proposal
- Names and contact information of two recommenders
- Preferred U-M academic home unit(s) (e.g., School, Department, or Center)

Career goal statement

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

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

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

Research Proposal

Your research proposal, up to three double-spaced pages including references (12 pt font and 1 inch margins), should outline the research aims for your postdoctoral fellowship and should clearly extend beyond your dissertation research. Proposals should demonstrate a clear connection to sustainability themes and move beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries.

Please keep in mind that your project proposal will be read and evaluated by experts from a variety of fields. Clarity to a broad audience is critical.

Preferred U-M home School/College, Department, or Center

Each Fellow will be associated with a U-M School, Department, and/or Center during their time at the University of Michigan and candidates should indicate their preferred unit (or units).

Applicants are welcome to affiliate with any U-M academic unit, including professional schools (umich.edu/academics). Candidates may also identify potential faculty collaborator(s) at the University of Michigan, but research is expected to be at least partially independent. For information on current faculty, applicants should search our Sustainability Experts database, which is available online at graham.umich.edu/experts.

Letters of Recommendation

Two letters of recommendation are required from scholars who are able to describe your qualifications for conducting sustainability-focused postdoctoral research that extends beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries. You are required to submit the names and contact information for your letter writers via the Intent to Apply form which must be submitted before the application form can be accessed. After you complete your Intent to Apply form, the recommendation writers you list will receive an email with a web link and instructions for uploading your letters directly to the Graham Institute. The recommendation letter submission deadline is December 1, 2014. ***You should submit your Intent to Apply form as soon as possible so your letter writers have sufficient time to submit their letters, as the submission link will not be available to them until you submit the form.***

Applicant Notifications

You will ONLY receive an email notification after submitting your portion of the application. All application materials and evaluations will remain confidential. All applicants will be notified of their status by February 15, 2015. However, the review committee is not able to provide feedback on individual applications.

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