Postdoctoral Fellowship Request for Proposals

The University of Michigan defines sustainability as an emerging field of problem-driven, interdisciplinary scholarship and practice that seeks to protect the environment 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.

Established through a gift from the Dow Chemical Company, 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.

Nominations of current U-M postdoctoral fellows to become affiliated with the Dow Postdoctoral program are invited from all faculty across U-M with sustainability-related research. Nominees must be postdoctoral fellows who are either already working or have committed to working with the nominator as a fellow, and who have U-M appointments through at least April 2017. These Dow Postdoctoral Fellows will receive $7,500 per year from the Dow Postdoctoral program and are eligible to participate in all activities of the program.

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: Nominations of current U-M postdoctoral fellows to become affiliated with the Dow Postdoctoral program are invited from all faculty across U-M with sustainability-related research. Nominees must be postdoctoral fellows who are either already working or have committed to working with the nominator as a fellow. Non-US citizens may be nominated. 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 Distinguished Faculty Fellows in Sustainability at the University of Michigan, an interdisciplinary community of scholars from across the University of Michigan, will review all candidates and select the Dow Postdoctoral Fellows.

**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 will receive $7,500 per year through the Dow Postdoctoral Sustainability Fellows Program, which can be used to offset salary and fringe benefit expenses or to directly support the fellows’ research activities. The second year funding will be contingent upon the fellow meeting year one requirements. The home unit will return any unused funds to the Graham Institute when the fellowship appointment is complete. If the fellow departs from the program early, the prorated balance of funds must be returned to Graham.

**Fellowship Requirements and Responsibilities:**

*Postdoctoral Fellow Responsibilities*

- Fellows are expected to be in residence in Ann Arbor for the academic year (September – May) and be able to participate in at least 2/3 of all Dow Postdoctoral Program activities.
- Fellows must actively participate in monthly seminars/dinners and monthly colloquia and occasional program workshops.
- At the end of each fellowship year, fellows are encouraged 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 participation in the proposal competition for the Distinguished Awards for Interdisciplinary Sustainability.
Nomination process:
U-M faculty may nominate postdoctoral fellows who are either already working or have committed to working with the nominator as a fellow, and who have U-M appointments through at least April 2017. Nominations must be received by May 4, 2015 and consist of a letter submitted to http://graham.umich.edu/application-request/33007.

Following submission of a nomination, the nominee will receive an email requesting submission of the following materials by May 18, 2015:

- Curriculum vitae
- Research statement indicating how their current U-M research relates to sustainability

Curriculum vitae

The curriculum vitae should include the following components:

a. Educational background
b. Relevant business or professional experience
c. Academic honors
d. Membership in professional organizations
e. Complete list of publications and presentations

Research Statement

- 1 page (single-spaced)
- Describe your research focus, keeping in mind that your application will be read and evaluated by experts from a variety of fields.
- Describe how your research incorporates sustainability.

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