

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 at the University of Michigan (U-M) supports 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 2018.* 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, an interdisciplinary community of scholars from across the University of Michigan, will review all candidates and make recommendations to the Dow Fellows Program Director regarding cohort composition. While these reviews serve as the primary basis for selection, and are nearly always implemented, the Program Director is charged with ensuring diversity across the cohort (per program goals), which could impact the makeup of the final cohort. Any decisions by the Program Director to modify cohort composition will be made in consultation with the Distinguished Faculty Fellows in Sustainability.

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 Program when the fellowship appointment is complete. If the fellow departs from the program early, the prorated balance of funds must be returned to the Program.

Fellowship Requirements and Responsibilities:

Postdoctoral Fellow Responsibilities

- Fellows are expected to be in residence in Ann Arbor for the academic year (September – May). Fellows must actively participate in 67% of all monthly research seminars with the Dow Doctoral Sustainability Fellows, 75% monthly dinner seminars with the Distinguished Faculty in Sustainability, and the annual Dow Sustainability Fellows Symposium
- Fellows must present their research at least 3 times during their 2-year fellowship – at a research seminar, at a dinner seminar, and as a poster at the Dow Sustainability Fellows Symposium.
- 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 attend all seminars and additional program offerings such as skill-building sessions and workshops.
- 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 (<http://sustainability.umich.edu/dow/distinguished-awards>), and submissions to the Michigan Journal of 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 **September 19, 2016** and consist of a letter submitted to <http://graham.umich.edu/application-request/37732>.

Following submission of a nomination, the nominee will receive an email requesting submission of the following materials by **September 26, 2016**:

- 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