Dow Sustainability Fellows Program
Masters and Professional Degree Call for Nominations

Program Overview
Established through a six-year gift from The Dow Chemical Company, the University of Michigan's Dow Sustainability Fellows Program (program) is administered by the Graham Environmental Sustainability Institute (Graham Institute). The 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 and is eligible to compete for a Distinguished Award for Interdisciplinary Sustainability, with these competitive awards being used to implement team project proposals.

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. The 40 highest ranked candidates will be recommended for final approval by the Graham Institute Director. 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. Productivity and quality of applicant's prior work and experiences
d. Demonstrated accomplishments that show potential for sustainability leadership
e. Desire for interdisciplinary balance in the 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 Graham Institute’s Director 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 formal workshops/seminars and participation in 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 Fellowship Program Officer in advance.

d. Fellows must collaborate on teams to complete a substantial inter-disciplinary project from one of two options below. They must present the outcome of their project as part of the program seminars during the Fellowship period. Schools/Colleges are encouraged to match degree requirements to their Fellows project outcomes, where feasible.

   Option 1: Form a small team (4-6 people) to create an applied project proposal that competes for one of several Dow Distinguished Awards for Interdisciplinary Sustainability.

   Option 2: Form small interdisciplinary teams (masters/professional fellows only) to create a persuasive white paper (ideally for a client) that develops a comprehensive stance on a particular sustainability challenge, or a comparable deliverable approved in advance by the Graham Institute Director.

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 candidate students for consideration, with nominations due to the Graham Institute by October 27, 2013. Names of nominees should be uploaded by each school’s/college’s designated point of contact using the following link: https://graham.umich.edu/db/application-request/25888. Each School/College should also notify nominees of their nomination. Nominees will then be contacted by the Graham Institute and asked to complete a formal application package by November 11.

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:** Student nomination packages must be submitted on-line at [https://graham.umich.edu/db/node/add/application/25888](https://graham.umich.edu/db/node/add/application/25888) 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 educational goals and planned post-graduate studies or work of no more than 800 words written by the student, that describe:
   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 enhance the student’s ability to pursue and engage in impactful sustainability work (approximately 200 words).
   iii. Briefly describe a sustainability challenge (i.e., wicked problem) of your own choosing and then describe how you would approach solving it (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 26, 2013. The Graham Institute will contact the references to obtain the letters.

**DEADLINES:**

5 p.m., **October 27, 2013** for Schools/Colleges to nominate up to 10 eligible, interested and competitive candidate students.

5 p.m., **November 11, 2013** for nominated students to complete and submit their self-nomination application packages.

5 p.m., **November 26, 2013** for letters of reference to be submitted on the nominated student’s behalf.

5 p.m., **December 11, 2013** for the Faculty Review Committee to complete their review of candidates and to make recommendations to the Graham Institute Director for the approximately 40 awardees.

5 p.m., **December 21, 2013** for notification of Dow Fellows to be completed.

**NOTE:** All applications will be handled confidentially.

Please refer to [http://sustainability.umich.edu/education/dow](http://sustainability.umich.edu/education/dow) for additional details on the program.