2016 Call for Nominations
Masters and Professional Degree Fellows

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.

Overview

Established through a gift from The Dow Chemical Company, the University of Michigan’s Dow Sustainability Fellows Program (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 Fellows’ team may receive up to $5,000 in additional support for project development and is eligible to compete for a Distinguished Award for Interdisciplinary Sustainability valued up to $50,000.

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. 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. Leadership, productivity and quality of applicant’s prior work and experiences  
d. Extent to which program participation will be a transformative, as opposed to incremental, learning experience

The Program Director (Don Scavia) will use the independent reviews as the primary basis for selection. Per program goals, the Program Director will also consider disciplinary balance in determining the makeup of the final 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, as one $10,000 payment at the start of each of the winter and fall semesters. Award payments will be transferred to academic units prior to the start of the term for posting to student accounts. These awards are intended to offset tuition and registration fees. A Fellow who would like to use the funds for any other purpose should consult with the financial aid office in his/her home unit to determine if payments can be posted as "refundable", which 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 Program 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 and in good standing in a U-M – Ann Arbor terminal masters or professional degree program.

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 the formal workshops/seminars, including an annual Program Symposium, and 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 Program Co-chair (Anne Wallin) in advance.

d. Fellows must form interdisciplinary teams (4-6 fellows each) to develop and execute a project (ideally for a client) that develops a comprehensive stance or analysis of options on a particular sustainability challenge of the team’s choosing. Project products will
include a white paper and an oral presentation of project outcomes at the conclusion of the project. Teams will also present a poster at the annual Dow Sustainability Fellows Program Symposium. Individual Fellows are encouraged to work with their home Schools/Colleges to see if there are options available to match degree requirements to their Fellows project outcomes.

e. For the entirety of their Dow fellowship, all Fellows must abide by all applicable U-M policies (e.g., Academic Integrity, Conflict of Interest/Commitment, Procurement and Expenses, Research with Human Participants, etc.) including any non-academic codes and polices of their respective units and the academic integrity policy of the Program. Failure to adhere to these policies may result in revocation of their fellowship.

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 students for consideration, with nominations due to Anne Wallin at apwallin@umich.edu by Wednesday, October 28, 2015. Each School/College should notify nominees of their nomination, but nominees will also be contacted by the Graham Institute and asked to

- Provide names and email addresses for reference letters no later than Monday, November 2, 2016.
- Complete a formal application package by Friday, November 6, 2015.

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: Nominated students must submit application packages online (link to be provided by the Graham Institute) and must include a clear, legible copy uploaded as single PDF file 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 be a transformative, as opposed to incremental, learning experience (approximately 200 words).
   iii. Describe a challenge or opportunity related to your area of work and articulate how it relates to sustainability and would benefit from
interdisciplinary approaches. (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, but they must be legible when scanned!

The names and email 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 Wednesday, November 16, 2015. The Graham Institute will contact the references to obtain the letters. These reference names and email addresses must be provided online by the nominee no later than 5 pm Monday, November 2, 2015.

**DEADLINES:**

5 p.m., October 28, 2015 for Schools/Colleges to nominate up to 10 eligible, interested and competitive candidate students.

5 pm, November 2, 2015 for nominees to provide names and email addresses for references

5 p.m., November 6, 2015 for nominated students to complete and submit their self-nomination application packages.

5 p.m., November 16, 2015 for letters of reference to be submitted on the nominated student’s behalf.

5 p.m., December 9, 2015 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 18, 2015 for notification of Dow Fellows to be completed

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

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