2020 NDWRRI Fellowship Program

Eligibility

- NDSU and UND graduate students conducting or planning thesis/dissertation research in water resources areas
- Recipients of a 2019 fellowship may apply for renewal.
- Fellowships have 2 to 1 non-federal to federal matching requirements.

Duration and Amount

Funding period: March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021

Duration of a proposed project: (1) full year: 12 months from March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021; (2) one semester plus summer: 7.5 months, May 16, 2020 to December 31, 2020; or (3) summer only: 3 months, May 16, 2020 to August 15, 2020

Stipend amount: $800 to $1,000 per month for M.S. students and $1,000 to $1,400 per month for Ph.D. students, depending on funding availability.

The general criteria used for proposal evaluation include: scientific merit, originality of research, research related to the state water resources issues, and extent of state or local collaboration and/or co-funding.

Application Deadline and Submission

Applications are due by 5:00 p.m., Friday, November 15, 2019. All proposals will be evaluated by an external review panel of water resources professionals. Announcement of awards will be made by early January. Please send an electronic copy of the application package to linda.charlton@ndsu.edu and xuefeng.chu@ndsu.edu. Please see the Guidelines for Preparation of Applications for details.

Information for Proposal Preparation

- Fellowships are available only to NDSU and UND graduate students in full-standing engaged in thesis/dissertation research in any water resources areas. The award should be used only for stipends for graduate students.
- Applications should be prepared by graduate students with significant input and advice from their thesis/dissertation advisors.
- Fellowships are competitive, and applications will be evaluated by an external review panel of water resources professionals.
- Preference will be given to students in the later stages of thesis/dissertation research who can demonstrate good research productivity (e.g., journal publications). Depending on the overall evaluation of the application, a portion of the requested amount may be awarded.
- Applicants should have a thesis/dissertation project defined and approved by their graduate advisory committees. The approval requirement does not apply to 2020 summer fellowship applicants in their first semester.
- The advisor’s support of other research costs (supplies, travel, etc.) through existing external grants or funding from the university will strengthen the application.
- Applications from students and advisors who have not met the reporting requirements of their previous fellowship projects will not be considered for funding.
The fellowship must be matched by twice the amount from non-federal sources. The preferred sources of matching are: (1) auditable co-funding of the student's thesis/dissertation project from a non-federal grant, (2) teaching assistantships from academic departments, (3) tuition waiver, and (4) in-kind faculty time. An in-kind contribution of 1-3 months (depending on the size of the stipend) of state-funded academic year time of faculty advisor (faculty salary plus fringe benefits) and the student tuition waiver should normally satisfy the matching requirement.

- Fellowships start on March 1, 2020 (or as soon thereafter as the USGS authorizes the NDWRRI funding).

"Leveraging" Funding

It is strongly recommended that advisors/students consult the following agencies and personnel to explore whether the proposed fellowship research fits with their ongoing or planned research programs. If so, cooperative agreements involving additional funding or in-kind contributions of services to the fellowship project may be possible.

- USGS Dakota Water Science Center, Bismarck ([https://www.usgs.gov/centers/dakota-water](https://www.usgs.gov/centers/dakota-water)) - specific contact (NDWRRI State Advisory Committee Member): Steven Robinson (smrobins@usgs.gov)
- ND State Water Commission, Bismarck ([http://www.swc.state.nd.us/](http://www.swc.state.nd.us/)) - specific contact (NDWRRI State Advisory Committee Member): Andrew Nygren (anygren@nd.gov)
- ND Department of Health, Bismarck ([https://www.ndhealth.gov/](https://www.ndhealth.gov/)) - specific contact (NDWRRI State Advisory Committee Member): Peter Wax (pwax@nd.gov)
- Other local or state water resources professionals

Reporting Requirements

A final report, to be prepared by the student and his/her advisor, is required for all fellowship projects. The due date and the detailed requirements for the report will be provided before the end of the funding period. In addition, all fellows and their advisors are encouraged to publish their research results as an official NDWRRI Technical Report. The fellows are also expected to attend and/or present at the NDWRRI-organized and sponsored seminars and conferences.

Advisor’s Responsibility

- Provide guidance to the student for preparing the fellowship proposal, particularly the budget to make sure the 2 to 1 non-federal to federal match is satisfied.
- Co-sign the application cover letter.
- **If a fellowship is awarded, make sure that the student will submit the required final report by the due date.**
- Serve as the principal investigator and administer the awarded fellowship through your department by starting and ending the fellowship payments at the appropriate dates.
- Acknowledge NDWRRI in the fellow’s thesis/dissertation, publications, and presentations for its support to the thesis/dissertation research and let the Institute Director know.

Note that each year, the institute must wait for the final funding for the National Water Resources Research Institute (WRRI) Program (included in the USGS budget) to be approved by the Congress and the President. Thus, we may have to modify the proposal later depending on what the Congress does regarding funding.
Guidelines for Preparation of Applications

The application for the NDWRRI fellowship must include the following:

A. **Cover letter** (PDF) It should be addressed to the Director of NDWRRI. The cover letter must be signed by the student and the advisor.

B. **Proposal** (MS Word): The proposal consists of the following components:
   1. Title of the project.
   2. Names of the student and his/her advisor, program, and university.
   3. Introduction of the applicant: major, research area, post-secondary education, progress in degree program (courses completed, candidacy or comprehensive exam, anticipated completion date), progress in thesis/dissertation research, previous professional and scholastic accomplishments (publications, conference presentations, awards, etc.).
   4. Abstract of the proposed research (200 words or less) and 3-5 keywords.
   5. Description of the critical state water problem being (or to be) investigated.
   6. Key literature and prior work in your research group (if applicable).
   7. Scope and objectives of the proposed research.
   8. Methods, procedures, and facilities.
   9. Expected results and proposed deliverables (e.g., publications).
   10. Progress to date, if research is underway.
   11. Cited references
   12. Budget: Provide the budget details such as co-funding of the project, sources of any other stipend support for the applicant, faculty summer salary, and operating support during the fellowship period. This section must be prepared by the advisor. Remember the 2 to 1 non-Federal to Federal match is required.

C. **Appendix I** (PDF): Two-page NSF style biosketch of the advisor.

D. **Appendix II** (PDF): Up-to-date unofficial graduate transcript of the student (or undergraduate transcript for a new graduate student).

The number of pages for Section B (single spaced, 11-12 font size) should not exceed seven. The deadline for the fellowship applications is **5:00 p.m., November 15, 2019 (Friday)**. The application package, including 1 Word file and 3 PDF files, must be sent as e-mail attachments to: [linda.charlton@ndsu.edu](mailto:linda.charlton@ndsu.edu) and [xuefeng.chu@ndsu.edu](mailto:xuefeng.chu@ndsu.edu)

Note that the successful fellowship applications will be eventually submitted to the USGS WRRI 104b Annual Grant Program for final approval. Suggestions from the state review panel or the director may be communicated to the applicants for further improvements and/or consideration of the proposals.