



**ECOLEADERS**

## 2019 NWF Higher Education Sustainability Graduate Student Research Fellowship Request for Applications

**Topic:** Research and development of report on current higher education campus sustainability landscape.

**Location:** Any U.S. location

### **Background:**

National Wildlife Federation has worked with colleges and universities since 1989 to advance sustainability efforts in the areas of campus operations and curriculum. NWF focuses our higher education work in the following three areas: Leadership, Careers, and Campus Greening most notably through our [NWF EcoLeaders program](#) and [Career Center](#), annual [EcoCareers Conference](#) and management of the [RecycleMania Program](#).

### **Goal of Fellowship:**

In an effort to make sure our higher education sustainability programming is best serving the needs of all higher education institutions and communities, the NWF Higher Education Sustainability Graduate Student Research Fellow will conduct research and analysis of the current campus sustainability landscape identifying the trends, gaps, and redundancy with special attention paid specifically to behavior change related to institutional sustainability efforts as well as trends of higher education engagement with local K-12 institutions around sustainability and environmental education.

### **Key Responsibilities**

- Register and maintain an active personal profile and presence on NWF EcoLeaders community, and promote to personal network
- Create project plan for a 4-6 month Fellowship term based on desired goal (stated above)
- Conduct research and analysis of current campus sustainability landscape and identify trends, gaps and redundancy and document examples.
- Conduct research on behavior change on campuses as a result of campus sustainability/greening efforts and include campus examples of campaign strategies.
- Conduct research on trends of higher education institutions engagement with local K-12 institutions, especially as it relates to sustainability/environmentally focused efforts and include examples.
- Document and report on findings through a final report

### **Fellowship Program Requirements:**

- Participate in Fellowship kick-off call - date TBD
- Participate in periodic phone check-ins with NWF staff about project status and responsibilities

- Submit biweekly project updates throughout the Fellowship detailing the progress you have made and plans for the duration of your Fellowship

#### **Perks and Privileges:**

- \$3,000 stipend
- Professional development assistance and networking
- Possibility of academic credit for successful completion of the project, as an independent study or integration of fellowship project into course curricula

**Eligibility:** Graduate students from any college or university within the U.S. are eligible to apply. Applications are invited from students in all disciplines and are not limited to environmental studies majors. Current and former employees of National Wildlife Federation and former NWF Campus Ecology Fellows are ineligible to apply. Former NWF interns are eligible to apply following one year from their final work date. The name on the application must be limited to **one individual** and the Fellowship reporting, training, or other requirements cannot be transferred to or shared with another student. Additional involvement should be noted in the proposal. The applicant must be enrolled in school through the duration of the 4 month grant period.

#### **Grant Terms:**

The Fellowship is for a term of 4-6 months, depending on Fellow's schedule. The fellow will begin in mid-April 2019 specific date TBD. Fellows spend various amounts of time on their projects each week. The average amount of time spent is 10 hours weekly or 40 hours monthly. The time invested by each student is typically considerable, but it is also flexible to account for schoolwork and other commitments and the working style of each Fellow. Fellows will receive a stipend for their work. Any Fellowship-related expenses accrued during the Fellowship period should be covered by the stipend.

Payments are dispersed in two installments: First installment of grant awards are made within two weeks of awarding the fellowship and finalizing fellowship agreement. The second installment will be made by August 31, 2019. Grant funds may be distributed to the student directly (with submission of a W-9) or to an Administrative Office on campus (e.g. Research, Grants and Contracts Office, Financial Aid Office, Campus Sustainability Office) to the attention of the appropriate administrator. Grant funds may be taxable; consult your tax advisor for U.S. Internal Revenue Service reporting requirements.

#### **How to Apply:**

1. Carefully review the information provided in this document.
2. Complete and submit the application form for the 2019 NWF Higher Education Sustainability Graduate Student Research Fellowship, [HERE](#).
3. Submit an electronic letter of recommendation from your identified Advisor via PDF attachment to [Fellows@nwf.org](mailto:Fellows@nwf.org)

*All applicants must identify and work with an Advisor for the duration of the grant period. An advisor is a member of the staff, faculty, or administration on your campus who is willing to serve in an advisory capacity for the duration of the grant period. The advisor should be from the department on campus this is most closely related to your fellowship and can validate that the project is one that is supported by the department and/or campus.*

*Please secure an electronic copy of a letter of recommendation from the Advisor explaining the qualifications of the applicant and his or her role in advising the student and submit the letter as a PDF attachment via email to [Fellows@nwf.org](mailto:Fellows@nwf.org)*

**The deadline to submit applications is April 7th, 2019 by midnight.**

Applications are reviewed by a committee to determine which meet the selection criteria. All applicants will be notified of their status within one month of their application deadline.

**Applications will be evaluated based on the following:**

- Demonstrated interest in and experience working within or with diverse constituencies
- Engagement with students, faculty, community organizations, and businesses
- Interest in conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Strong communication skills of applicant to build diverse constituency
- Initiative to overcome barriers and seek alternative avenues when necessary
- Proactive research and outreach to ensure project will successfully achieve the above
- Commitment to advancing environmental initiatives on academic, personal, and professional levels
- Desire to remain an active member in NWF after the conclusion of the Fellowship