

ESPP Doctoral Fellowships

The Environmental Science and Policy Program (ESPP) annually offers multiple doctoral recruiting fellowships for students who will matriculate in the next fall semester. The goal of these one-year fellowships is to attract the strongest possible cohort of students to pursue a doctoral education focused on the environment. Students who are selected will complete the [ESPP Doctoral Specialization](#) and will

- have demonstrated academic excellence
- articulate their commitment to research goals well matched to the Environmental Science and Policy Program
- show evidence of leadership potential or of the capacity to make a distinctive professional or scholarly contribution
- contribute to a diverse educational community, as evidenced in personal history and experience, research goals, or the promotion of understanding among persons of different backgrounds and ideas
- have different disciplinary, racial, ethnic, gender, socioeconomic, and geographic backgrounds

Eligibility

The intent of these fellowships is to recruit new doctoral students to MSU, so only students new to the PhD program (matriculating in the following fall) are eligible. Students must apply to and be accepted by a doctoral program at MSU to be considered for these fellowships. Recipients of these fellowships must participate in the ESPP Doctoral Specialization. This includes successfully completing the four requirements outlined as part of the specialization. Normally, these specialization courses are taken within the first two years of a student's PhD program. International students are also eligible for these fellowships.

The ESPP Doctoral Recruiting Fellowship is not intended to supplement a University Distinguished Fellowship or other comparable fellowships. Acceptance of such a fellowship would disqualify the candidate from an ESPP fellowship.

The Selection Process

Departments/Schools will submit nomination materials to ESPP by no later than February 1st, 2016 (See Nomination Form for Units). Strong letters from departments explaining the fit of the applicant to the ESPP doctoral

specialization are required. An ESPP committee will make recommendations to the director of ESPP based on the criteria listed in the application process. The first round of fellowship offers will be made in early March.

Financial Support

The Fellowship includes full tuition for two semesters, health insurance and a stipend of approximately \$25,000.

To enable early engagement of students in research in their academic departments, each fellowship includes a ¼ time Research Assistantship during the year the student receives the fellowship.

Specifically, the one-year fellowship includes:

- Quarter time RA Support. The student receives the standard package of ¼ RA support. The package includes the standard RA Level 2 stipend, tuition and benefits. The academic department needs to appoint an advisor to oversee the student's research supported by the research assistantship.
- As part of the fellowship package and in addition to the stipend included in the ¼ time RA, the student also receives \$19,000 support.

To make the fellowship as attractive as possible, each home department or school is required to provide additional three years of funding to match the support provided by ESPP, allowing the department or program to offer the student a four-year funding package. The funds for these three years of matching support can come from any sources. Departments and schools that link admissions to Master's degrees with doctoral admission should include a description of their procedures with the application materials.

Tier System

Three tiers of fellowships are offered based on the funding source of the quarter time RA.

- Tier 1: ESPP covers funding for the entire quarter time RA. These go to the highest ranked applicants.
- Tier 2: ESPP and the student's home department each assumes half of the funding required for the quarter time RA.
- Tier 3: The student's home department covers funding for the quarter time RA. If needed, the home department can offer a quarter time teaching assistantship (TA) instead of RA.

Application Process

Home departments should submit applications electronically via email to espp@msu.edu as a single PDF or a single Word document. Documents include:

- Completed nomination form (attached).
- Letter from department or program's chairperson or program director indicating acceptance into the graduate program, nomination for ESPP fellowship, and a funding commitment match.
- A copy of the student's MSU application packet, including:
 - Copies of all undergraduate and graduate transcripts.
 - GRE scores.
 - Three letters of recommendation.
 - TOEFL scores (for international students only).
- Single-page cover letter from student indicating his/her interest in being considered for an ESPP Recruiting Fellowship.
- Three-page maximum essay by student indicating:
 - His/her interests including performing interdisciplinary research in social AND biogeophysical aspects of environmental science and policy.
 - How his/her academic background and previous professional and practical experiences predisposes him/her to interdisciplinary work or allows him/her to be positioned to become more interdisciplinary at MSU.
 - Any other aspect of his/her background which makes him/her uniquely suited to make contributions to ESPP.
- Curriculum vitae.

DEADLINE: Copies of application materials must be received by ESPP no later than **Feb. 1, 2016**. Applications received after this date will not be considered. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Send materials to: espp@msu.edu with **ESP RF16** in the subject line.

We will confirm the receipt of the application; if you do not hear from us, please contact us again.

Departments and schools will be notified of the fellowship awards in early March.

Questions can be directed to espp@msu.edu or 517-432-8296.

Nomination Form
Doctoral Recruiting Fellowship
Environmental Science and Policy

Name: _____ PID: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

Department/School: _____

Major Professor: _____

Signature of Department Chairperson