Nanofellowship Program Guidelines – For Prospective Graduate Students

The Waterloo Institute for Nanotechnology is proud to announce the 2022 competition for Nanofellowships. The Nanofellowship competition is now open to accept applications.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 1st 2022

Value and Eligibility

WIN Nanofellowships are awarded to graduate students pursuing nanotechnology research at the University of Waterloo. These fellowships are valued at $10,000 CAD each and are awarded to top Canadian and International graduate students at the University of Waterloo. The fellowship funding is a supplement to the Research Studentship support provided by the supervising faculty member. Nanofellowships can be held simultaneously with other graduate awards. These prestigious fellowships are open to new graduate applicants and current graduate students who must have at least two terms remaining in their program at the time of receiving the award. A student may be awarded a maximum of two Nanofellowships valued at $10,000 for the duration of their graduate career at UW. Applicants must satisfy the general eligibility requirements for the University of Waterloo Graduate Scholarships (i.e. you must register and maintain an active graduate student status during the award period of September 2022-April 2023).

Application Procedures

To be considered for WIN’s Nanofellowship competition:

I. Applicants must complete the Nanofellowship application form for prospective graduate students (fillable PDF form which can be downloaded online at nano.uwaterloo.ca/nanofellowships). Applicants must submit the completed form by the application deadline of February 1st 2022.

Due to the high volume of applications, late applications will not be considered.

I. Nanofellowship Application Form

The Nanofellowship application form contains your personal information, consent form, and research proposal. Ensure all portions of the application are complete upon submission.

Instructions to complete the Nanofellowship application form:

A. Personal Information

- Please provide your contact information (in case any additional documents for your application is needed). Email is the primary form of communication for the WIN office so please ensure your email address is entered correctly.
- Telephone number. Please include the area code and country code if not a North American number.
Waterloo Institute for Nanotechnology

- If you do not have a UW 8 digit student ID# by the time of application, please enter “N/A”. NOTE: you must be admitted to UW as a graduate student to meet the eligibility criteria for receiving the award.

B. Consent to Review of Graduate Studies Application by Nanofellowship Adjudication Committee

- Please sign to allow consent of review of your full graduate studies application by the Nanofellowship Adjudication Committee, including full academic transcripts, letters of recommendation, and all other pertinent/supporting documentation included in your application to graduate studies at UW (full signature required).

C. Description of Proposed Research

C1: Technical Proposal of Research (500 words maximum)

- Clearly and concisely describe the proposed research project that interests you and its relevance to nanotechnology. The originality and relevance of the proposed research will be an important element of the evaluation.

- If you have already been working on the proposed research project, please provide research background, hypothesis, methodologies, results you have accomplished to date, and the expected outcomes or significant breakthroughs.

C2: Alignment with Nanotechnology Thematic Research Areas (200 words maximum)

- Please describe how your research aligns with at least one of the four key research theme areas of nanotechnology, including: Smart & Functional Materials; Connected Devices; Next Generation Energy Systems; and Therapeutics & Theranostics. Please see descriptions of nanotechnology research theme areas at: https://uwaterloo.ca/institute-nanotechnology/research-waterloo-institute-nanotechnology.

C3: Video Presentation (1-2 minutes)

- Nanofellowship applicants are to provide a short recording explaining why you have chosen nanotechnology as your area of study, your passions for pursuing this field, and your project as it pertains to the betterment of society – similar to an ‘elevator pitch’.

- Information on your video should be unique and not a reiteration of the text provided for C1 and C2. The video should be no longer than 2 minutes and saved in MP4 format.

- You can either video record yourself giving the presentation along with some graphics/presentation slides or record your voice presenting over a powerpoint presentation.

- You can use your the UW standard presentation as a template, or you can use your own: UW Standard Slides

Options:

1. You can upload the video to your personal YouTube channel and provide the link in the application in the field in Section C3. Please ensure the video is either set to ‘Public’ or ‘Unlisted’ so our committee is able to view it.

2. You can upload the video file to our Google Drive, using the link provided here. Please ensure the video file is in mp4 format: WIN Google Drive
3. If you are unable to upload a video or audio file, prefer not to prepare such a file, please complete the questionnaire found on this link: WIN Google Drive

Administration of the Nanofellowship Awards

The results of the annual Nanofellowship competition will be announced in coordination with UW’s Official Offer Letters to Graduate Studies. If the offer is accepted, payment of the award will be in two installments of $5000 deposited directly into your bank account over two successive academic terms. In some cases, you may conditionally defer your award upon approval by the WIN Nanofellowship Committee (see below for details). Acceptance of this payment arrangement is a condition of your award.

For all awardees, you must maintain active studentship for at least two terms at the time of receiving the fellowship to avoid automatic termination of the award. In the situation of less than one term remaining in the program, you are not eligible to receive a Nanofellowship. If you have at least one term left but less than two full terms, you may be allowed to receive half of the Nanofellowship (value of $5,000) for one term, presumably your last full term, upon approval of the WIN Nanofellowship Committee.

If your student status has changed during the course of the award period, you must notify the WIN office as soon as possible or you may be legally liable to return the full value of the Nanofellowship.

Requirements of Nanofellowship Winners

Mandatory Attendance of the Annual WIN Nanofellowship Awards Ceremony

Each year WIN hosts a research celebration for all Nanofellowship awardees, to showcase their research projects and findings to the WIN community, as requested by the WIN Nanofellowship Endowment donor. Participation in this event is mandatory. If you cannot attend (only under very exceptional circumstances), you must notify the WIN office at least 2 weeks prior to the ceremony, and be prepared to provide your project summary documentation.

Mandatory Attendance of WIN Seminars and Distinguished Lecture Series

Each Nanofellowship winner is also required to attend a total of nine (9) advertised WIN Seminar Series (including Joint Seminars) and three (3) Distinguished Lecture Series for that academic year. Attendance by WIN Nanofellows will be monitored by WIN staff at each seminar or via signed attendance forms submitted to the WIN Office.

Poster Presentation at WIN “Coffee Talk” Series

Each Nanofellowship winner must present their poster in-person once at the weekly “Coffee Talk” series, either as a physical poster or in video poster form.

Failure to meet these requirements may result in forfeiture of the WIN Nanofellowship.

Deferment of Award

You may defer your award for a maximum of one year at a time ONLY for reasons of parental leave, child rearing, illness, or health-related family responsibilities. You may not defer your award in order to accept or hold another award, employment, or to pursue studies other than those for which you received funding. For
students on co-tutelle or other programs requiring travel, the Nanofellowship payments will follow those guidelines recommended by the University of Waterloo.

You must complete the Request for Deferment of Award and send it to the WIN office as soon as possible, but no later than one month, after the scheduled start date of your award. Supporting documentation (e.g., birth, adoption or medical certificate) confirming the reason for deferment must also be included with the request.

To reinstate a deferred award, you must notify WIN in writing at least 4 weeks before the scheduled start date of your award.

For students who have not yet applied to Graduate Studies at the University of Waterloo at the time of application:

The Nanofellowship application DOES NOT replace the regular admission procedure for Graduate Studies at the University of Waterloo. Please visit https://uwaterloo.ca/discover-graduate-studies/application-process for general admission information.

In the case of delayed acceptance to the proposed graduate program at the University of Waterloo, the fellowship will not be released to the candidate until s/he is actively enrolled in a graduate program.

If you have any further questions on admission, please contact the Graduate Studies Office at the University of Waterloo:

**Graduate Studies Office**  
Needles Hall, Room 2201  
519 888 4567 ext. 35209  
https://uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies/about-graduate-studies/contact-us

**Application Overview**

I. Complete the Nanofellowship application form (submit completed form as LastName_FirstName.pdf to nanofellowship@uwaterloo.ca with subject line: Nanofellowship Application)
   
   A. Personal Information  
   B. Consent to Review of UW Graduate Studies Application Documents  
   C. Outline of Proposed Research (500 words maximum)

**Important Contact Information**

General inquiry about WIN Nanofellowship application: win-office@uwaterloo.ca  
Nanofellowship Application submission: nanofellowship@uwaterloo.ca