

Prospective Student Nanofellowship Program Guidelines

The Waterloo Institute for Nanotechnology is proud to announce the 2024 competition for Nanofellowships. The Nanofellowship competition is now open to accept applications.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 1st 2024

Please only fill out this form if you are a prospective student.

Prospective Students are defined as students who have applied to graduate studies at the University of Waterloo and not yet started their graduate program (not yet taking courses or started research, and tuition fees have not been arranged for that term).

- ***Existing Students** are defined as students who have been accepted to UWaterloo Graduate Studies, made tuition arrangements and started their program with courses and/or conducting research.*

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 the top Canadian and International graduate students at the University of Waterloo. The fellowship funding is supplementary 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 (or at least three complete terms remaining in their program at the time of application). A student may be awarded **a maximum of two** Nanofellowships valued at \$10,000 for the duration of their graduate career at UWaterloo.

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 2024-April 2025). Applicants must be in good academic standing in their program to be eligible.

No late or incomplete applications will be considered.

Application Procedures

To be considered for WIN's Nanofellowship competition:

Applicants must complete the online Nanofellowship application form, entering responses for all required fields, and uploading the required forms.

Please note any incomplete application will not be considered for the competition. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure the application is complete.

Late applications will not be considered.

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to follow up with referees to ensure that two letters of reference are submitted prior to the indicated deadline.

I. Nanofellowship Application Form

The Nanofellowship application form contains your personal information, program information, academic and research history and the contact information for your two referees. This is now an online application process.

Instructions to complete the Nanofellowship application form:

Personal Information (Questions 1 to 13)

Q1 to 2: Please provide your contact and personal information as requested by each prompt.

Q3: Telephone number: Please include the area code and country code if it is not in North America.

Q4: Email is the primary form of communication for the WIN office so please ensure your email address entered is correctly. UWaterloo email is preferred.

Q5 to 11: Fill in accordingly to your contact and personal information.

Q12 to 13: Citizenship: Provide your country of citizenship and current immigration status in Canada (Citizen, Permanent Resident etc).

Prospective Students (Questions 14 to 23)

Q14: Type of Degree: Graduate Program to which you have applied at UWaterloo: Masters or PhD program to which you will be starting your graduate studies

Q15: Proposed Supervisor: Enter the full name of the supervisor with whom you will be conducting your thesis research

Q16: Proposed Faculty: A drop-down menu will appear to select which Faculty at UWaterloo you would be conducting your thesis research under

Q17: Proposed Department: Enter your home department

Q18-19: Consent to Review of UWaterloo Graduate Studies Application Documents: 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 e-signature required)

Education History (Questions 20 to 32)

Q20: Is your undergraduate degree from Canada? Please select “Yes” or “No”

Q21: If “No”, from which country? Enter the country where you earned your Undergraduate degree

Q22: From which university did you attain your undergraduate degree? Enter the full name of the university

Q23: What was your overall average in undergraduate studies? Enter a percentage. If you were given a GPA, please convert to a percentage

Q24: Please indicate the rank of your university based on the national ranking system of the country: Each country has a national ranking system for universities, please enter where the university where you completed your undergraduate degree ranks nationally compared to other schools. You can search online for a list of best schools in the country of your schooling

Q25: Please provide the source on which the above ranking is based: Provide the URL where the ranking was obtained

Q26: Have you completed a Master’s degree? Please select “Yes” or “No”

Q27: If yes, is your Master’s degree from Canada? If you are currently in your Master’s program at UWaterloo, please select “Yes

Q28: If your Master’s degree is not from a Canadian university, please indicate from which country the university is located

Q29: Please provide the full name of the university where you completed your Master’s degree

Q30: What was your average in your Master's program? Enter a percentage. If you were given a GPA, please convert to a percentage

Q31: Please indicate the rank of your university based on the national ranking system of the country: Each country has a national ranking system for universities, please enter the ranking of the university where you completed your Master's degree compared to other schools in that country

Q32: Please provide the source on which the above ranking is based: Provide the URL where the ranking was obtained

Academic & Research Background and Supplemental Information (Questions 33 to 35)

Q33: Academic background – Provide degree(s) completed or in progress. Provide degree(s) completed or in progress in chronological order. Indicate anticipated completion date for degrees in progress.

You must include the following:

- Degree
- Department
- Institution
- Country
- Academic Average
- Start and Completion Dates (mm/yy to mm/yy)

You may also provide any relevant certificate programs/training completed.

Please follow this example:
B.Sc. - Department of Chemical Engineering - University of Waterloo - Canada - 86% - 09/20 to 06/22

Q34: Awards and Scholarships – List all awards with information regarding level (e.g., University, Regional, National) and the value, starting with the most recent. Please indicate the sponsored country of the award/scholarship received if not Canada. You may also include any declined awards. Please do not include regular UW graduate student stipends and training grants in this section.

You must include the following:

- Date (mm/yy to mm/yy)
- Name of Award or Scholarship
- Country
- Value
- Level (eg: University, Regional, National)

Please follow this example:
12/22 to 12/23 - WIN Nanofellowship Award - Canada - \$2,000 - Regional

Q35: Academic Research and Relevant Work Experience – Indicate if the experience gained was part of a program of study. Teaching and lecture experiences can be included but indicate if the experience was gained during your degree program.

Publications and Presentations (Questions 36 to 40)

Q36: List all articles published, in press, and/or accepted in refereed journals with DOI link, and articles submitted to refereed journals with submission number.

Q37: List all refereed conference proceedings and abstracts, and invited communications, reports, and book chapters.

Q38: List all non-refereed contributions such as technical reports, conference presentations, invited talks, posters, and patents.

Q39: Leadership, Volunteering, Extracurricular activities, and other Relevant Experience – Describe any relevant volunteer or leadership experience. Specify the time period over which you did these tasks.

Q40: Special Circumstances (Optional) – Describe any special circumstances (such as maternity or family leave) of which you would like to inform the reviewers.

Description of Proposed Research, Relevance to Nanotechnology, and Alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG) (Questions 41 to 44)

Q41: Select one or more of the KEY THEME AREAS of nanotechnology: (1) smart & functional materials; (2) connected devices; (3) next generation energy systems; (4) therapeutics & theranostics that is described through your research.

Q42: Select the UNSDGs that align with your project.

Q43: Project title: Enter the title of your project.

Q44: Within 800 words, clearly and concisely describe your research project and its relevance to nanotechnology. The originality and relevance of the proposed research will be an important element of the evaluation.

- Provide research background, hypothesis, methodologies, results you have accomplished to date, and the expected outcomes or significant breakthroughs.
- Include how your research aligns with at least one of the four key research theme areas of nanotechnology: Smart & Functional Materials; Connected Devices; Next Generation Energy Systems; and Therapeutics & Theranostics. You must also describe how your research aligns with one or more United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG), including how your project takes into consideration the theme of equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) as outlined in UNSDG #10 – Reduced Inequality. Please see descriptions of nanotechnology research theme areas at [WIN Research Thematic Areas](#) and the UNSDGs at [THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development \(un.org\)](#).

It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure the application is complete. The WIN Nanofellowship Team will not contact students to notify of application completeness.

Administration of the Nanofellowship Awards

The results of the annual Nanofellowship competition will be announced before the end of the Spring term and all qualified applicants will receive a letter of notification. The awardees must sign and return the acceptance letter within the deadline provided. Upon receipt of the confirmation letter, you should expect the payment of the award in two installments of \$5,000 to be directly deposited into your bank account over two successive academic terms. In some cases, you may conditionally defer your award upon the 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 the 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.

ALL DECISIONS ON NANOFELLOWSHIPS ARE FINAL. Once Nanofellowship winners are announced, the WIN Nanofellowship Committee will not consider challenges or requests for reconsideration from applicants.

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), three (3) Distinguished Lecture Series for that academic year and attend at least one (1) Pitches & Demos Event. Attendance by WIN Nanofellows will be monitored by WIN staff at each seminar or via signed attendance forms submitted to the WIN Office.

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 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.

Contact Information

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