UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | Department of Systems Design Engineering

Cornfield Systems Design PhD Fellowship Application

Use this form to:

- Apply for the Cornfield Sustainable Systems Design PhD Fellowship

Award description:

With the generosity of an alumnus, the Department of Systems Design Engineering at the University of Waterloo is pleased to invite applications for the Cornfield Sustainable Systems Design PhD Fellowship. This fellowship will address multi-scale, interconnected, highly complex, and dynamic socio technical systems with a special focus on energy, climate action and system resilience.

This prestigious award provides $120,000 over four years ($30,000 per year). When combined with advisor support ($10,000 per year), and Faculty of Engineering support ($5,000 per year) the Cornfield Sustainable Systems Design PhD Fellows are expected to receive approximately $45,000 of support per year. The funding will be prorated for students currently enrolled based on their year of study. Fellowship holders may also apply for TAships each term which would provide additional funding support.

This opportunity is open to exceptional candidates with relevant experience who want to extend their interests to advance research in this field. The department expects to award up to four fellowships in Fall 2027. The fellowship selection committee serves as the annual progress review committee that awards subsequent years of funding based on progress. More information can be found on the award website.

Eligibility and selection criteria:

Applicants must:

- Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident at the time of application
- Hold an incoming average of at least 80%
- Have applied for the Systems Design Engineering PhD program for full-time studies starting in Fall 2027 or are currently enrolled as a full-time student in a SYDE MASc or PhD program with at least one term of graduate research experience. Current students are eligible to apply within the first year of their PhD program.
- Plan to research sustainable systems design in their PhD

Instructions:

1. The applicant will complete their Systems Design Engineering PhD program application
2. The applicant will complete and sign page 2 of the fellowship application form
3. The applicant will submit their complete fellowship application form and the following required components through the submission portal by the deadline below:
    a. A 1-page description of the applicant's experience and motivation for studying sustainable systems design
    b. A 1-page description of their proposed research focus/questions that will be pursued during their PhD study
    c. A letter of support from a faculty supervisor in the Department of Systems Design Engineering, who agrees to provide the Faculty of Engineering minimum guaranteed PhD funding
    d. Transcripts from prior graduate studies (students applying to PhD without a master's must include undergraduate transcripts)
    e. An updated CV or résumé

To be completed by student applicant:	
PERSONAL INFORMATION	
Last Name:	Given Name(s):
Email:	UW Student ID Number:
APPLICATION INFORMATION	
Status: ❑ Canadian Citizen ❑ Permanent Resident	UW Application Number (if applicable):
Systems Design Engineering Supervisor:	Academic average (most recent):
To be read and signed by applicant:	
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	
1. I confirm that the information provided in this application package is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. 2. I understand that I am responsible for providing all required documentation as indicated in the application instructions or as directed by administering office, and that if I do not submit the required documentation/information I may be disqualified for consideration of this fellowship. 3. I understand that the collection of personal information provided in this application package is used solely for determining my eligibility for this award and similar awards. 4. I authorize the University to release a copy of this application package to the appropriate awards selection committee. 5. I acknowledge that if my funding changes within the intended fellowship period, or if any details change that would disqualify me from continuing to hold this award, I will immediately notify the department, as I understand that it may result in a reassessment and/or cancellation of my fellowship. All details provided in the application are subject to verification. 6. If selected as a fellowship recipient, I authorize the University to release any non-financial application details to the award donor, such as name, program/plan/level of enrollment, value of award, as well as supporting documentation (e.g., letter, resume), here applicable.	
Student Signature:	**Date:**