



DENIN Environmental Fellows: Bridging Science and Society

2016 Program Description and Application Information Deadline: April 11, 2016

The Delaware Environmental Institute (DENIN) announces an opportunity for doctoral students, the DENIN Environmental Fellows Program, to support students carrying out environmentally relevant research at the University of Delaware.

The goal of the program is to help prepare students whose scientific research and interests demonstrate a clear link to societal need and benefit. We anticipate that, over time, Fellows will pursue diverse careers across academia, the public and private sectors.

DENIN Fellows are selected to function as a team for two years, and will work together in ways that complement their primary academic programs. Fellows will participate in and lead a select number of DENIN events and activities each year, including symposia, seminar series, outreach events. Opportunities will be provided for professional development, as well as networking with domestic and international scientists and leaders. Fellows may also propose new initiatives.

Fellowships include a \$30,000 annual stipend. A cost of education allowance is also permitted; applicants may request up to \$6,680 per year to be used for tuition, research supplies, or research-related travel.

Fellowships are provided for two years, as long as the Fellow remains in good academic standing, and is able to carry out a select number of DENIN activities over the course of the two-year period. Fellows are selected by a committee of internal and external reviewers.

DENIN Fellows selected in 2016 will be supported by the generous contributions of DENIN donors, by the Unidel Foundation, and by the National Science Foundation EPSCoR project, a research, education and capacity building program focused on environmental themes. In 2016, up to five Fellows will be selected. Fellowships will begin September 1, 2016.

How to apply, in brief:

A complete application requires four documents, with an optional additional letter. The first three, listed below, are assembled into a single PDF file for submission.

- 1) Cover Page and Proposal Narrative**
- 2) Resume**

The third and fourth required documents are letters of recommendation from the academic advisor and a second reference. You have the option to include a third letter, in the event that you have an external partner.

- 3) Advisor letter**
- 4) Second recommendation letter**
- 5) Optional letter** - letter from an external person with whom you will interact and to whom you will present results of your research.

Eligibility: Doctoral students with an environmental focus at the University of Delaware, both current or newly admitted for 2016, are eligible. Faculty advisors must be DENIN affiliates. Students in natural and physical sciences, social sciences and engineering are eligible.

Limitations: Only one student per faculty research group will be considered.

Focal areas of interest: For the 2016 competition, special emphasis is being placed on applications with a biogeochemistry focus. Topics of particular interest include climate change and sea level rise; land use and water quality; environmental remediation; environmental sensing. In addition, environmentally focused social science and environmental justice research are also eligible. These environmental focal areas are illustrative only. Again, the most competitive applications will link the research to a significant societal need.

Application Instructions:

All application documents are due by 5:00 PM, April 11, 2016. Applications and required letters received after the deadline will not be reviewed.

Assemble your application documents in the following order: 1) **Cover sheet and Proposal Narrative;** 2) **Resume.** Follow page limits as noted. (Please note that crisp, succinct writing is welcome. The page limits are guidelines for *maximum* length.)

COVER SHEET AND PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Proposals should include the following elements. Note page specifications for the narrative and other sections; text in these sections should be single-spaced, at least 11-pt font, with 1-inch margins.

1. Cover Sheet (1 page)

Complete the cover page and include it as the first page of your application. Download the cover page [here](#): Information you will need to complete the form includes:

a) Applicant contact information and demographics. Advisor contact information. Name, address and email of your department's grant administrator/financial manager.

b) Bio/abstract

Include a one-paragraph abstract that describes your biographical information and current research focus. This information should be suitable for use in public reports and on the DENIN and NSF EPSCoR websites, as well as reports to private and foundation funders that briefly describes the research to be carried out, and its significance to society. The bio/abstract should be non-technical, and understandable to an educated general audience.

2. Proposal Narrative (6 pages maximum)

a) Context and Research Focus

Discuss your background, and how you became interested in your research area. (1 page)

b) Intellectual Merit

Describe the research you are carrying out, theoretical grounding, existing literature, plan for empirical research. Discuss why the research is significant. Note areas of innovation. Include a timeline of your core activities. (2 pages)

c) Broader Impacts

How will your work address a societal need, or provide a benefit to society? What are the social dimensions or implications of your work? Describe how the activities of the proposed research can be

linked to addressing needs and challenges of environmental agencies/environmental nonprofit groups. Each proposal should identify an external contact/organization that might be the ultimate user of these research results; a letter of endorsement is not required but will strongly enhance the proposal). What prior experience do you have in communicating science to non-academic audiences? (2 pages)

d) References Cited (1 page)

3) Resume: 2 pages

Provide a resume that includes your education, undergraduate and graduate GPA, work experience, honors, awards and publications. (2 pages)

4) Letters of recommendation: no page limit

Two recommendation letters are required. An additional third letter is optional. Request a letter of recommendation from your academic advisor and a second reference. Ask your recommenders to email the letters to: Jeanette (at) udel.edu Please also ask them to use this convention in the file name: "Yourlastname_recommendation_letter"

4a) Advisor letter: Your academic advisor's letter should discuss your potential as an environmental researcher who is able to link science or engineering research to societal needs. Your advisor should a) state a commitment to support you academically and financially after the Fellowship concludes, and b) support your work as a member of the DENIN Environmental Fellows team, who will help to organize (both intellectually and logistically) several environmental meetings and events each year. DENIN Environmental Fellows will also receive communications coaching as part of the Fellowship.

4b) Second recommendation letter: Request your second letter from a faculty member or other individual who knows you and your work well. The second letter could be from a former research mentor, supervisor, or from a faculty member who knows you well from a class.

4c) Optional third letter: If you have a community partner, NGO collaborator, state agency contact, former employer or another person outside of academia who can comment on your potential as a DENIN Fellow, and on the significance of your research focus, you have the option to include a third letter of reference. The third letter is especially appropriate if an agency or group will be working with you, or if you plan to present your research results to them.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL

1. Save your document **as a single .pdf file**. Ensure that you include the cover page, project narrative, and resume. Name your file using this convention: lastname_firstname_DENIN Fellow_Application.pdf (For example -- smith_jennifer_DENIN Fellow_Application.pdf)

2. Send your document via UD drop box to Jeanette Miller, Associate Director, Delaware Environmental Institute. Use the following email address: Jeanette (at) udel.edu. To access UD Drop Box, go to: <https://pandora.nss.udel.edu/dropoff.php>

Would you like confirmation that your application was received? When you send your file via UD Drop Box, be sure to check the box that says, "Send an email to me when the recipient picks-up the file."

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Fellowship recipients are funded through several sources, including contributions from donors, from the Unidel Foundation, and from the National Science Foundation (NSF) EPSCoR RII grant to Delaware, which is managed by the Delaware Environmental Institute. Fellows will be asked to complete a brief

report annually, and this information will be provided to the National Science Foundation. Fellows will also be required to attend the Annual Delaware EPSCoR State Meeting and to make presentations to the DENIN or EPSCoR communities.

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