Duke Environmental Impact Fellows Application Process

Self-eligibility check
Students in any Duke PhD program that have completed at least two full years of their PhD program will be eligible to apply.

General information
Fill in the online form with your name and contact information, your doctoral program, faculty advisory name, and year you started your doctoral training.

The remaining materials need to be uploaded on the website.

Applicant background - CV
You will also be required to upload your curriculum vitae. Include your academic history, the degrees you have earned, the institutions from which you earned them, and the discipline(s). Use your CV to highlight your education, expertise, achievements and honors, and publications. When deciding what to emphasize in your CV, be sure to consider the full suite of application materials that a reviewer will receive from you, including your statement of interest and references.

Statements of interest (1,000 word limit)
This should include a statement about your qualifications for the fellowship and your career goals. Target your statement specifically to the program goals.

1. Reasons for applying for the EIF program.
2. Qualifications: A summary of your background and expertise – what you can bring to the program.
3. Areas of interest: Outline the areas or issues that you are particularly interested in addressing in exploring in your research and applications that are relevant to the program.
4. Role as a fellow: Describe how you imagine you might apply your expertise to the applications you are exploring.
5. Career goals: State your goals and how you envision this program will help you achieve those goals.

Letter of support from your faculty advisor.
It is helpful for your advisor to review the information on the EIF program in order to target comments appropriately, so remember to send them a link to the website. See instructions below for what should be included in these letters.

Instructions for faculty advisor
Below is information to share with your faculty advisor covering a short overview of the program you are applying for and the specifics of what should be included in the letter.
The EIF program is an opportunity for professional development that will train PhD students to be the next generation of high impact leaders in environmental science, policy and management.

The fellowship will focus on building leadership capacity and non-academic networks. The program will help students:

- Build self-awareness regarding leadership capacity
- Develop a strategic career vision
- Develop effective communication strategies for non-academic settings
- Learn how to build the intellectual and personal connection to engage and implement environmental sustainability
- Begin to build a network of academic and non-academic collaborators to help students achieve their environmental solutions goals.

Please be sure to write your letter of reference on letterhead stationery and sign it. The reference letter should provide specific examples about the following:

- How long you have known the candidate and in what capacity.
- The applicant's technical, research, and academic achievements and any relevant extracurricular accomplishments and relative standing of the applicant among his/her peers.
- The applicant's ability to communicate, both orally and in writing, and to interact productively with individuals and groups, especially non-scientific audiences.
- The applicant's leadership qualities, problem-solving skills, initiative, maturity, and judgment.
- The applicant's interest and experience in applying his/her expertise to the resolution of societal issues, as relevant to the EIF fellowship program.
- The applicant's professional future, including possible impacts the fellowship may have.
- Any other comments you believe are relevant.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

The fellowship program will be limited to those PhD students able to express both the desire and the potential to have a high impact career at the intersection between environmental science and policy.

Candidates are evaluated and scored based on the five categories outlined below. The first category, Scientific/Technical background, is given the most weight. We also seek individuals who have a combination of leadership attributes, analytical and problem-solving abilities, and communication skills; who demonstrate commitment to this professional development opportunity and its objectives; and whose experiences and interests align with the program.

A perfect score is 100 points.
Scientific/Technical Background & Professional Accomplishment (1-40 points)
- Solid scientific/technical education and experience in area of expertise, appropriate to career stage.
- Employment in relevant academic, applied scientific/technical, research, outreach or other positions appropriate to career stage and field.
- Record of publications and/or presentations appropriate to career stage, field and institutional setting.
- Record of grants and/or participation in research projects or other scientific/technical initiatives appropriate to career stage, field and institutional setting.

Leadership & Potential (1-15 points)
- Prior leadership roles relevant to career stage (e.g., undergraduate or graduate student governance or committees; active in professional or school societies, nonprofit or community initiatives).
- Skill/potential to organize, build consensus, lead projects and people toward positive outcomes.
- Confidence, maturity, and self-direction with the capacity, initiative and flexibility to work well independently as well as in groups.
- Ability to identify personal strengths and areas for growth and development.
- Potential to take initiative to make the EIF program a rich and positive experience, to apply the skills learned through the program, and to take advantage of networks developed.

Analytical & Problem-Solving Abilities (1-15 points)
- Evidence of creative thinking and analytical skill.
- Ability to translate and apply theoretical concepts into practice to solve problems.
- Capacity to make connections between science and technology and broader economic, social and political issues.

Communication, Interpersonal & Outreach Skills (1-15 points)
- Excellent communication skills: articulate, cohesive, concise, rational flow of information, and clear in both context and detail.
- Ability to convey scientific knowledge in broader, non-scientific contexts.
- Capacity to work effectively with diverse stakeholders outside scientific and/or engineering communities.

Commitment to EIF program Mission & Opportunities (1-15 points)
- Strong interest in applying scientific/technical knowledge toward the solution of environmental problems.
- Clarity of objectives for applying to the program, and how the experience will be used in the future.
• Willingness and flexibility to tackle issues beyond area of expertise, openness and capacity to expand experience with applications and to interact with stakeholders, policymakers and the media.

• Realistic expectations, open-minded, and adaptable to program opportunities and challenges.

• Demonstrated or clearly communicated commitment to apply scientific and technical expertise to serve society.

Receipt of completed application will be acknowledged by email. If you have not received an acknowledgement email please contact Jessica Sheffield <Jessica.Sheffield@duke.edu>.

All application materials are confidential and will only be viewed by the steering community for selection of fellows.

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact Jessica Sheffield <Jessica.Sheffield@duke.edu>.