

2023-24 Funding opportunity: **Released Tuesday January 17, 2023**

### **Louis and Elsa Thomsen Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships**

The College of Agricultural & Life Sciences (CALS) will have several Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships to award on a College-wide basis for the 2023-24 academic year. We anticipate being able to award three Louis and Elsa Thomsen Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships each year. We are pleased to issue this call for nominations.

The CALS Academic Planning Council (APC) suggested in 1999 that college-wide Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships be awarded to proven, outstanding students who have shown research excellence in either applied or basic sciences. Eligibility requirements, nomination procedures and materials, and procedures for selection are according to the 2021-22 CALS APC recommendations, detailed as follows:

- 1) Nominations may be submitted by a CALS department graduate degree program or by any graduate degree program in which CALS faculty participate and in which the nominee is pursuing a graduate degree. Each degree program is limited to one nominee. The nominee's major advisor must have a tenured or tenure-leading appointment in a CALS department or have a partial appointment of 0.1 FTE or greater in CALS to be eligible.
- 2) Nominees must be enrolled as a full-time student in a CALS Ph.D. program or in any Ph.D. program in which CALS faculty participate. The nominee must not have exceeded five years in their current graduate studies before the application deadline and hold dissertator status (*must have passed their preliminary exam and be enrolled as a dissertator*) before the fellowship begins. In programs where a Master of Science is the terminal degree, nominees should have completed one year of graduate study as of the beginning of the academic year in which the fellowship would be held.
- 3) The recipients will hold a Fellow appointment for one year, September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024, 2023. The award package includes a bimonthly stipend, tuition and fees, and health insurance eligibility.
- 4) Submit compiled nomination materials including all of the following in order:
  - a) The application cover page with the degree program director's signature (see attachment)
  - b) A nomination letter from the major advisor that includes a description of area of study's expectations regarding research productivity measures.
  - c) A one-page research project description written by the candidate at a level understandable to a generalist audience outside their field of specialty. The one-page research project description should clearly define the nature and scope of the project as a summary of accomplishments to date, a description of expected outcomes, a timeline for completion, and the broader relevance of the project beyond the disciplinary impact.
  - d) The student's curriculum vitae
  - e) The student's official or unofficial academic graduate transcript(s) – Master's (if applicable) and PhD
- 5) Nominations will be reviewed by a three-member panel selected from among members on the CALS APC. The panel will recommend recipients to the Dean of CALS.
- 6) One electronic copy of the compiled nomination materials should be submitted to the CALS Research Division mailbox at [research@cals.wisc.edu](mailto:research@cals.wisc.edu) by **Monday, March 20, 2023**.

Please contact Mark Hubbard (265-2286, [mark.hubbard@wisc.edu](mailto:mark.hubbard@wisc.edu)) if you have questions about the nomination process. We look forward to receiving outstanding nominations for the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences - Louis and Elsa Thomsen Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships.

### *Frequently asked questions for the College of Agricultural & Life Sciences fellowship opportunities*

- For CALS fellowship awards, such as the Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships (*Heins, Thomsen, and WI Potato Industry Board*) and the Graduate Fellowships in Agricultural & Life Sciences (*Caldwell and Goetz*), what are the nomination limitations for degree programs?
  - For the Louis and Elsa Thomsen Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships, the Richard M. Heins Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship, the Jack & Marion Goetz Graduate Fellowship, and the Senator Robert Caldwell Graduate Fellowship, degree programs may submit one nominee for each opportunity. The Richard M. Heins Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship and the Senator Robert Caldwell Graduate Fellowship will not be offered in 2023-24.
  - One Wisconsin Potato Industry Board Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship will be awarded annually; however, degree programs may submit one nomination in the area of water resources and one nomination in the area of potato research.
  - It is permitted for degree programs to nominate the same candidate for multiple fellowship competitions, but only one nomination may be submitted per degree program within each pool.
  - Nominations must be submitted by the degree program Director or the degree program administrative staff (e.g. Student Services Coordinator) in which the nominee is pursuing a graduate degree. Nominees should not submit their own nomination documents.
- Dissertators (Ph.D. candidates that have passed a Prelim exam and enrolled as a dissertator), Non-dissertators (Ph.D. candidates that have not passed a Prelim exam) and Master's degree students – which fellowships are we eligible for?
  - Louis and Elsa Thomsen Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships – Dissertators only.
  - Jack & Marion Goetz Graduate Fellowship in Agricultural and Life Sciences – Dissertators and Non-dissertators are eligible.
  - Wisconsin Potato Industry Board Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship – Dissertators, Non-dissertators, and Master's degree students are eligible.
  - Richard M. Heins Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship – Dissertators and Non-dissertators are eligible. The Richard M. Heins Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship will not be offered in 2023-24.
  - Senator Robert Caldwell Graduate Fellowship in Agricultural and Life Sciences – Dissertators and Non-dissertators are eligible. The Senator Robert Caldwell Graduate Fellowship will not be offered in 2023-24.
- For the Thomsen Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships, must a nominee have already passed their preliminary exam at the time of application, or can the student take and pass the preliminary exam before the fellowship begins?
  - The nominee is not required to have passed the preliminary exam at time of application, but the nominee is required to have passed the preliminary exam and be enrolled as a dissertator before the fellowship begins.
- Are nominees enrolled in CALS eligible to apply for the CALS fellowships if the nominee's major advisor does not have a tenured or tenure-leading appointment in a CALS department?
  - Nominees whose major advisor does not hold a tenured or tenure-leading appointment in CALS are eligible if the advisor holds a partial appointment of 0.1 FTE or greater in CALS.
  - Nominees whose major advisor holds neither a tenured or tenure-leading appointment in CALS, nor a partial appointment of 0.1 FTE or greater in CALS, are not eligible.
- Are nominees who are not enrolled in CALS eligible to apply for the CALS fellowships if the nominee's major advisor has either a tenured or tenure-leading appointment in CALS, or a partial appointment of 0.1 FTE or greater in CALS?
  - Yes, such students are eligible for these fellowship opportunities.

- Will teaching and outreach activities be considered by the review panels?
  - No, the intent of these fellowships is to support research endeavors. Other activities, although valuable, will not be considered.
  - Research productivity measures constitute impact and significance to the field; refereed publications (and prestige of journal published); non-refereed publications, oral presentations; awards; contributions to grant writing; and peer research mentorship.
- I hold a Director appointment in CALS; however, I do not hold a faculty appointment in the College. Would a student I mentor be eligible for nomination?
  - Unfortunately, no – since you do not hold a faculty appointment in CALS, your student would not be eligible for these fellowship opportunities.
- Graduate transcripts are required – are original official transcripts required?
  - Official or unofficial transcripts may be included – if the review committee desires original official transcripts at time of review, you will be contacted at that time.
  - Please include transcripts rather than semester Grade Reports.
- Do I need to include transcripts for both my Master's and Ph.D. work or just my Ph.D. work?
  - Yes, transcripts for both Master's (if applicable) and Ph.D. work are required.
- What signatures are required on the application?
  - The student's major advisor must sign the letter of recommendation.
  - The degree program Director under which the nomination is being submitted must sign the cover page of the nomination package.
- Should copies of the publications/papers to be attached to the nomination package?
  - No, please do NOT include copies of publications/papers in the nomination package.
  - Students should NOT include "manuscripts in preparation" when listing publications on the CV.
- May I include support letters other than the advisor's letter?
  - No – the only letter of support to be included is the nomination letter from the student's major advisor.
- Can the degree program Director request that the start date of the fellowship award be postponed?
  - Yes, the start date can be postponed; however, the end date of the fellowship cannot be extended past August 31. Additionally, a fellowship cannot begin prior to September 1.
- For the Goetz Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship, must the nominee's Ph.D. dissertation project include research at an agricultural research station?
  - Yes, the donor specified this as a criteria of the award.
- I started a Master's degree in my current degree program but later decided to pursue only a Ph.D., do I qualify for any of the fellowship awards?
  - Yes, you qualify if your total years combined in your Master's and Ph.D. programs do not exceed five years before the application deadline.
- Should the student being nominated submit their own fellowship nomination materials?
  - No, compiled nomination packages should be submitted by the applicable Graduate Program Director, the Graduate Student Services Coordinator, or the Department Chair.

Application for  
Louis and Elsa Thomsen Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships  
**2023-24**  
College of Agricultural & Life Sciences  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Student Name:	
Department and Degree Program:	
Major Professor:	
Campus Address:	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	
Date of Entry into Graduate Program (MM/DD/YYYY):	
Date of Successful Completion of Preliminary Examination (if applicable) (MM/DD/YYYY):	
Expected Date of Completion of Graduate Program (MM/YYYY):	
UW Grade Point Average for Didactic* Courses Taken as a Graduate Student:	
Degree Program Director's Name/Signature/Date:	
<i>Signature of the degree program director verifies that this application is the sole nomination from the degree program and verifies the eligibility status of the applicant.</i>	

\* Note: For calculation of this grade point average, do not count independent study, internship, or seminar courses.