



University of Montana Institute on Ecosystems (IoE)
Dissertation Improvement Grants
Summer 2024

Amount: \$2,500

Source: University of Montana Institute on Ecosystems

Awards: Up to three fellowships for Summer 2024

Eligibility: PhD candidates whose research aligns with themes relevant to the UM Institute on Ecosystems, such as (i) ecosystem studies; (ii) population, community, and landscape ecology; (iii) ecological and evolutionary genetics

Deadline: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 5:00 PM MDT

Doctoral students who meet the eligibility criteria can apply for a fellowship to support summer research and travel expenses that facilitate the completion of their Ph.D., increase their competitiveness for post-doctoral applications and federal grants, and contribute to peer-reviewed publications. Applications will be evaluated based on scientific merit, academic record, and likelihood of the candidate achieving their project goals.

To apply, students must submit a proposal that meets the requirements below. Applications will be reviewed by the IoE Fellowship Committee chaired by Director Frank Rosenzweig. All application materials should be sent directly to Jamie Lockman (jamie.lockman@umontana.edu) no later than March 26, 2024, at 5:00 PM MDT.

Application Requirements:

1. A two-page, single-spaced (800-word limit) proposal that outlines (i) the current status of the student applicant's dissertation, (ii) overarching research goals, and (iii) the role that this award would play in advancing the completion/dissemination of that research. Please include a title and abstract not exceeding 100 words. The proposal should include a timeline for completing all portions of the proposed research. Anticipated conference presentations and/or publications should be included separately as an Appendix. The abstract and appendix do not count toward the 800-word limit.
2. A Curriculum Vitae (CV) that summarizes the student applicant's educational background and academic achievements, including undergraduate and graduate GPAs, advanced coursework and/or workshops, presentations, published abstracts, and peer-reviewed publications, plus any other information that contributes to the applicant's merit.
3. A letter of support from the dissertation advisor attesting to the quality, significance, and probable impact on the field of the candidate's work, as well as to the student applicant's capacity to complete their Ph.D. The letter should indicate the student's career stage (e.g., 2nd-year student, Ph.D. candidate) and their anticipated defense date by semester/year.



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Fellowship Awardees Must:

1. Register for a dissertation boot camp with the UM Writing and Public Speaking Center or an equivalent professional development opportunity dedicated to excellence in science communication.
2. Offer a public seminar during the 2024-25 academic year to the University of Montana graduate community through existing venues such as departmental or graduate group seminars. Candidates must explicitly highlight progress facilitated by the IoE award.
3. Acknowledge IoE support appropriately in oral and poster presentations and in peer-reviewed research publications.

Evaluation Criteria:

- 1) Quality and impact of research project.
- 2) Potential impact of funding on dissertation completion.
- 3) Quality, clarity, and detail of the proposal, including execution details (timeline, specificity of remaining work, etc.)
- 4) Quality and impact of prior research activities.

Contact:

Jamie Ryan Lockman, MA (she/her/hers)

FISCAL & PROGRAM COORDINATOR

University of Montana Institute on Ecosystems

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA