
J-WAFS Fellowships for Water Solutions 2017-2018 Call for Nominations

Background

The Abdul Latif Jameel World Water and Food Security Lab (J-WAFS) was established by the MIT administration in 2014 as an Institute-wide effort to bring MIT's unique strengths to bear on the many challenges of food and water supply. J-WAFS aims to improve the security, safety, and efficiency of the world's water and food supplies and works to reduce environmental impact of water and food systems.

The **Rasikbhai L. Meswani Fellowship for Water Solutions** is a doctoral fellowship for students pursuing research related to water and water supply at MIT. 2017–2018 is its inaugural year. Up to two outstanding students will be selected annually to receive fellowship support; the Fellowship currently covers one academic semester. This fellowship was made possible by Elina and Nikhil Meswani and family. Through it we seek to support outstanding MIT students who are pursuing solutions to the pressing global water supply challenges of our time.

The J-WAFS Research Affiliate Program offers companies the opportunity to partner with MIT around food and water research. The program is central to J-WAFS' efforts to engage across sector and disciplinary boundaries in solving real-world problems. A portion of each Research Affiliate's fees support the **J-WAFS Graduate Student Fellowship Program**. 2017–2018 is the inaugural year for this fellowship and one student will be supported for one semester.

Eligibility

Students eligible to be nominated for a Meswani Fellowship or a J-WAFS Graduate Student Fellowship must be in their second or third year of PhD studies and must have passed their qualifying exams by the application deadline, May 18th, 2017. These nominees should be engaged in research focused on alleviating problems of water supply or other solutions-based research and discovery in water. They should also have a clear research question and plan that they are actively pursuing. Extracurricular activities in water and related topics are noted but not necessary.

Eligible students must be in residence at MIT during the Fellowship award period. The selected fellows will be awarded one semester of funding.

Nomination Process

Application to the Meswani Fellowship and J-WAFS Graduate Student Fellowship is by faculty nomination. Each MIT faculty member is invited to nominate one outstanding second or third year PhD student for consideration to both fellowship programs. J-WAFS will match successful nominees to the specific fellowships. Nominees may be enrolled in any PhD program at MIT. They should be working in an area of

water and water supply with a focus on solutions-based research and discovery, as demonstrated by her/his statement of interest, subjects taken, and proposed research area.

Deadline

Complete nomination packets are due by email to J-WAFS no later than 5:00 pm EST on Thursday, May 18th, 2017.

Selection Process

Meswani Fellows and J-WAFS Graduate Student Fellows are selected by J-WAFS with faculty input representing a range of disciplines and matched to the funding source. J-WAFS may invite finalists for an in-person interview before the final decision.

Up to three fellows are expected to be funded for 2017-2018. Award decisions are expected in June of 2017. The successful recipients will be asked to provide a photograph, a one-paragraph bio, and a one-paragraph research description for use on the J-WAFS website and in other J-WAFS materials.

Submission

Nomination packets should be submitted by no later than 5:00 pm EST on Thursday, May 18th, 2017, to Andi Sutton, communications and program manager at J-WAFS, at arsutton@mit.edu. Please submit nomination packets via email in two parts. *Part 1 may be submitted by the student candidate OR by the nominating faculty (or her/his assistant). Part 2 must be submitted by the nominating faculty or her/his assistant.*

Part 1: STUDENT CANDIDATE: Student OR nominating faculty should submit the following, in a single PDF, in the order given below:

1. A completed Meswani/J-WAFS Fellow nomination cover sheet (below).
2. The student's curriculum vitae.
3. A current, unofficial copy of the student's transcript (*this can be obtained free of charge with a photo ID from Student Financial Services, room 11-120*). Note that J-WAFS seeks students with outstanding academic credentials for these fellowships; candidates should be able to demonstrate a GPA of 4.5 or higher.
4. A statement of interest from the student. The statement should directly address the three questions below. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** the statement must be written with a multidisciplinary audience clearly in mind. Reviewers may be from any of various disciplines and non-specialists should be able to clearly understand your work and its implications for the global issue of water supply.
 - What is your research question? How do you plan to answer it (methods, work plan)? (2 pages maximum)
 - How will your project contribute to solving the pressing global water supply challenges of our time? (1 paragraph)
 - Why should we support you as a fellow: what is the history of your commitment to the topic of water? and/or, what are your plans for future work in this area? (1 paragraph)

Part 2: FACULTY ADVISOR: Nominating faculty (or her/his assistant) should submit the following as a PDF:

A signed letter of nomination on MIT letterhead that provides an appraisal of the student's qualifications and capabilities and indicates why she/he believes the student should be awarded a Meswani Fellowship or J-WAFS Graduate Student Fellowship. The faculty member or faculty's assistant must submit this letter directly to Andi Sutton, communications and program manager at J-WAFS, at arsutton@mit.edu.

Questions? Please contact Andi Sutton: arsutton@mit.edu.



Nomination Cover Sheet for 2017-2018 Meswani Fellowship/J-WAFS Graduate Student Fellowship

STUDENT CANDIDATE INFORMATION	
Full name (Last, First, Middle Initial):	
Preferred first name:	
Preferred salutation & preferred pronoun:	[Ms.], [Mr.], [she], [he], [they], etc.
MIT department:	
Email address:	
Cell phone number:	
Campus office address:	
Postal mailing address:	

FACULTY ADVISOR INFORMATION	
Full name (Last, First):	
MIT department:	
Email address:	
Campus office address:	
Admin assistant name:	
Admin assistant email:	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Date of completion of doctoral qualifying exams:	[must be before 5/18/17]
MIT graduate studies GPA:	
Use this space to note any additional considerations for the review committee:	

Questions? Contact Andi Sutton at arsutton@mit.edu.

Please include this completed cover sheet as the first page of the "student candidate" portion (Part 1) of the Meswani Fellow Nomination PDF. Thank you!