



University of Maryland  
**Global STEWARDS**

*Future changemakers at the food-energy-water nexus*

[www.globalstewards.umd.edu](http://www.globalstewards.umd.edu)

**Application Deadline for 2021 cohort: September 30, 2020**

We invite doctoral students to apply to the UMD Global STEWARDS graduate training fellowship, funded by the National Science Foundation Research Traineeship (NRT) program. The fellowship will prepare a cadre of future leaders focused on innovations at the nexus of food, energy and water (FEW) systems. UMD doctoral students from the life and public health sciences, earth system sciences, engineering and computational sciences, social behavioral sciences, natural resource management, energy and environmental policy, and other FEW-related doctoral programs are encouraged to apply. The UMD Global STEWARDS program will train doctoral students to work and communicate across FEW disciplines, from molecular to societal levels and from local to global scales, enabling transformative discoveries that can only be realized through transdisciplinary approaches. The program is meant to complement our existing PhD programs that address critical FEW challenges.

**Program Elements:** UMD Global STEWARDS will have the opportunity to participate in five experiential, interdisciplinary NRT elements:

- 1) Introductory and advanced experiential coursework (total of 11 credit hours intended to be accommodated within the student's existing credit requirements)
- 2) Intensive, annual, one-week "Summer Boost" workshops focused on professional development activities (e.g., science communication; ethics; grant writing; leadership and conflict resolution)
- 3) Local Internship (optional) based in a non-academic setting (e.g., U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Water Research Foundation)
- 4) "Global Winter Amp" optional broadening experience in Israel or Nepal (a two-week, faculty-led, study abroad experience; applicants will submit a separate application for this opportunity). (Note that this element may be postponed due to the ongoing pandemic).
- 5) Outreach and mentoring targeted to undergraduates, secondary students, and the general public

In addition, UMD Global STEWARDS will be exposed to a range of FEW research areas. Examples include, but are not limited to: 1) Agricultural resilience through energy-efficient water reuse; 2) Food safety and security in variable climate scenarios; 3) Decision support systems to advance food-energy-water adaptation strategies; 4) FEW nexus challenges among indigenous and underrepresented groups; 5) Food waste and loss reduction programs and their influence on food, energy and water resources; 6) FEW sustainability, environmental justice and equity; 7) Governance and economics at the FEW nexus; and 8) the FEW nexus as a platform for global sustainable development. Fellows also have the opportunity to help shape the program and hone leadership skills through student-led committees and activities.

**NSF Stipends and Tuition Support:** Approximately 12 Global STEWARDS will be accepted to the 2021 cohort. We will have funding from NSF to offer one-year stipends (\$34,000) to approximately 6 of the 12 accepted students, along with tuition support and benefits. Funding decisions are based on the strength of accepted students' application materials. To be eligible for an NSF stipend, an applicant must have at least 2 years remaining until they complete their PhD *and* be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. However, we encourage students to apply for the Global STEWARDS program even if they are not eligible to receive an NSF stipend because these individuals will still be able to participate in valuable NRT program elements and receive \$1,500 to support conference travel, workshops and publications.

**All individuals accepted into the program will be designated as “UMD Global STEWARDS Fellows,” whether or not they receive NSF stipend support.**

**Application Process:** To apply to the 2021 Global STEWARDS cohort (beginning January 2021), students must submit the following application materials through the UMD Global STEWARDS online application:

<http://globalstewards.umd.edu/application/>

1. Personal information (e.g., name, email, UMD program and advisor, citizenship)
2. Research statement (max. 2 pages, double spaced PDF describing your prior research experience, your future research interests, and why you want to be a UMD Global STEWARD)
3. Current CV
4. Transcripts - current UMD transcript (unofficial transcript from Testudo is acceptable), and transcript from most recently completed degree
5. Acknowledgement form to be completed by the applicant’s advisor (available on the application website)
6. Two recommendation letters which must be emailed directly from the recommenders to [umdglobalstewards@gmail.com](mailto:umdglobalstewards@gmail.com).

**Completed applications (including two recommendation letters) must be received by September 30, 2020.**

The application process is identical for those who are seeking an NSF stipend and for those who are not. If you are seeking an NSF stipend, you can request the start date of your funding to be anytime between January - August 2021.

**Applicant Requirements:**

1. Current or accepted UMD doctoral student
2. Minimum current GPA of 3.0 (Fellows must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher to qualify for stipends and travel awards)
3. Intention to conduct research at the FEW nexus (involving at least two nexus areas)
4. Approval from their primary advisor

The UMD Global STEWARDS NSF NRT program is dedicated to increasing the diversity of STEM graduate students. We encourage applications from qualified individuals with varied experiences, perspectives and backgrounds. Applications from minority and women candidates are strongly encouraged.

Over the 5-year funding duration, this project anticipates training >60 PhD students, including 30 funded with NSF stipends. UMD Global STEWARDS graduates will emerge from the program as well-balanced life-long learners, stellar science communicators and distinctive professionals armed with the communication and professional skills needed to translate research discoveries into actionable science at the FEW nexus.

**For additional details regarding the program and the application process, visit [www.globalstewards.umd.edu](http://www.globalstewards.umd.edu)**

**We will host an Information Session via Zoom on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 11am.**  
Click here to RSVP for the Info session: <https://go.umd.edu/2021infosession>

**For additional questions, please contact us at [umdglobalstewards@gmail.com](mailto:umdglobalstewards@gmail.com)**

