



## Arboretum

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

### UW–Madison Arboretum Research Fellowships

The University of Wisconsin–Madison Arboretum is pleased to announce two graduate research requests for proposals. We are soliciting proposals that will address our mission and vision, as well as build on a tradition that began with the earliest plantings in 1935 to establish tallgrass prairie and continued with subsequent experiments in maintaining these early restorations. While we are committed to continuing this long tradition of research on adaptive restoration, the Arboretum is also a valuable research site for studies in botany, landscape ecology, horticulture, soil science, wildlife ecology, environmental engineering, social science, and public health. Proposals may address any of these areas, or other areas that utilize Arboretum land and other resources. The Fellowships will be awarded annually.

**Arboretum Mission:** Conserve and restore Arboretum lands, advance restoration ecology, and foster the land ethic.

**Arboretum Vision:** The Arboretum is a global source of knowledge of and a model for restoring ecologically sustainable relationships between people and the land through integrative, innovative, and collaborative approaches in science, stewardship, education, and public engagement.

**Resources and connections:** Arboretum research fellows will have access to the 1,200 acres of Arboretum land in Madison and over 500 acres at outlying sites; long-term records of restoration and management activities on these sites; facilities, vehicles, equipment, and staff support as appropriate and available; and connections with the public.

**Focus research areas:** We invite research proposals in all areas relevant to the Arboretum mission, including the social sciences. We are particularly interested in restoration ecology, invasive species monitoring and management, stormwater impacts, horticulture, visitor experiences, citizen science, public engagement, K–12 outdoor education, and the collection and analysis of long-term monitoring data at remnant and restored sites. Research addressing other areas will be considered if it makes wise use of Arboretum property and other resources.

#### Description of Fellowships:

- 1) **Leopold Fellowship.** Full support (academic year and summer stipend, equivalent to a 50% Research Assistantship, plus up to \$4,000 annually for research support) for up to three years. Fellowship will usually begin during the first or second year of the graduate program. The Leopold Fellow will be housed in a UW–Madison department, with primary advising responsibility held by a campus faculty member and an additional advisory connection to one or more [Arboretum staff members](https://arboretum.wisc.edu/about-us/people/) (https://arboretum.wisc.edu/about-us/people/). Potential research advisors include Ecologist, Research Specialist, Citizen Science Coordinator, Longenecker Horticultural Gardens Curator, Land Care Manager, Native Plant Gardener, Education Coordinator, Director, Assistant Director, and

Communication Coordinator). Faculty members or students with interest in this fellowship should contact the Arboretum Ecologist, Brad Herrick, or another relevant staff member to ascertain programmatic fit. Leopold Fellows will become part of a research cohort that includes Arboretum Research Fellows. Except in unusual circumstances that involve long-term Arboretum research, Leopold Fellows will not be eligible for subsequent or concurrent Arboretum Research Fellowships.

- 2) **Arboretum Research Fellowships.** Research support of up to \$8,000 per year, which can include summer stipend, undergraduate research assistants, materials, analyses, or other research needs. Fellowship can occur at any time during the graduate program, although we anticipate that most will be awarded during the first through fourth years of the graduate program. In some cases, an early-program awardee could apply for a Leopold Fellowship in a subsequent year. Three to five fellowships will be awarded each year, with the possibility of renewal for ongoing projects. Arboretum Research Fellows will form a cohort that 1) will meet regularly with campus faculty and Arboretum staff, 2) may choose to conduct collaborative research, and 3) will engage in and learn about outreach to the public and land managers; land management implications of research; and other aspects of public/land management/research connections. We anticipate that most research will occur during the summer, although it could take place at any time of the year.

### **Eligibility:**

#### Leopold Fellowship

- Student is a current or matriculating Masters or PhD candidate at the UW–Madison
- If the student is an incoming PhD candidate, there is guaranteed support from the home department for at least one additional year of funding
- A significant portion of the work will be conducted on Arboretum property

#### Arboretum Research Fellowship

- Student is a current or matriculating Masters or PhD candidate at the UW–Madison or other Wisconsin college or university
- A significant portion of the work will be conducted on Arboretum property

**To apply:** The following items should be electronically submitted by February 1, formatted to standard page size, single-spaced, and using 12-point font (references and table or figure legends may be in 10-point font) and 1-inch margins. Two reference letters should be submitted directly by the referees (not included in the applicant's package). Applications for both Fellowships are due February 1 (in most circumstances, this will be for support beginning the following fall term for the Leopold Fellowship, and for support beginning the following summer for the Arboretum Research Fellowships). Completed applications should be sent as a single pdf (except the letters of reference) in the order listed below to Brad Herrick, Ecologist, at [bradley.herrick@wisc.edu](mailto:bradley.herrick@wisc.edu).

1. **CV** should be up to two pages long and include undergraduate institution, graduate advisor, and other standard information.
2. **Personal statement** should be up to two pages long and include relevant background information about the candidate, a summary of why research interests are relevant to the mission and vision of the Arboretum, and professional goals.
3. **Research statement** should be up to four pages long and should clearly address 1) the relevance of the research, including descriptions of relevant literature and theoretical frameworks within which the project is set, 2) the questions and hypotheses that will be addressed, 3) the methods that will be used to test the hypotheses, 4) any relevant

previous findings by the proposer, 5) both the Intellectual Merit (the potential to advance knowledge) and Broader Impacts (the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes) of the proposed research, 6) why the Arboretum is an appropriate location for the research, and 7) references cited.

4. **Budget** should detail 1) the amount of the request and 2) the way in which the funds will be spent. For the Leopold Fellowship, include the standard amount of a 50% RA in the home department, tuition remission, and anticipated annual research costs (research costs will be awarded separately for each year of the Fellowship). For the Arboretum Research Fellowships, detail all costs (allowable costs include summer stipend, undergraduate research assistant salary, travel, equipment, and other research costs). A budget justification should follow the budget, with detailed explanations for all costs.
5. **Plan for data management and for sharing the products of research.**
6. **IRB and/or IACUC Certifications** should be included if relevant (if the research involves human subjects or vertebrate animals). If these certifications have not been obtained, note the expected application date.
7. **Two letters of reference** should include letters from 1) the faculty advisor, who should include a statement regarding the availability of resources necessary to carry out the proposed research, and 2) an undergraduate professor, another faculty at the graduate institution, or someone who is familiar with the professional science or research skills of the candidate. The letters should be sent directly to Brad Herrick, Ecologist, at [bradley.herrick@wisc.edu](mailto:bradley.herrick@wisc.edu).

#### **Expectations of Fellows:**

- Obtain proper permits to conduct work, including an [Arboretum research permit](https://arboretum.wisc.edu/science/research-permits/) (<https://arboretum.wisc.edu/science/research-permits/>).
- Each year, submit 1) a progress report, including time spent at the Arboretum conducting research, and 2) a project abstract that includes the project title, names of investigators, preliminary findings, and photos documenting research activities to the Arboretum Ecologist for inclusion in the annual research report.
- Provide project updates and summaries upon request for inclusion in Arboretum communications (i.e. newsletter, social media, website, etc.).
- Participate in the annual Arboretum [Research Symposium](#) or other Arboretum events for research fellows.
- Submit data and resultant publications or reports to the Arboretum for archiving in the database.

#### **Review Process:** The following elements will be considered:

- Does the proposed activity utilize Arboretum land in a way that is relevant to the mission and vision of the Arboretum?
- What is the potential for the proposed activity to advance knowledge and understanding; and to benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes?
- Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale?
- How well qualified is the applicant to conduct the proposed activities?
- Are there adequate resources available to the applicant (either at the home organization or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?

Questions? Contact Brad Herrick, Arboretum Ecologist, (608) 263-7344 or [bradley.herrick@wisc.edu](mailto:bradley.herrick@wisc.edu).