
J-WAFS Fellowships for Water Solutions 2021-2022 Call for Nominations

Background

The Abdul Latif Jameel Water and Food Systems Lab (J-WAFS) was founded in 2014 as an effort to amplify MIT's research in the water and food sectors in order to respond to the urgent global water and food challenges faced by our human community. J-WAFS catalyzes MIT research, innovation, and technology for ensuring safe and resilient supplies of water and food while reducing environmental impact, to meet the local and global needs of a rapidly expanding and evolving population on a changing planet.

J-WAFS is offering at least two one-semester graduate student fellowships for 2021-2022. One, the **Rasikbhai L. Meswani Fellowship for Water Solutions** is a doctoral fellowship for students pursuing research related to water and water supply at MIT. One outstanding student will be selected to receive fellowship support; the Fellowship currently covers one academic semester. Through it we seek to support outstanding MIT students who are pursuing solutions to the pressing global water supply challenges of our time. This fellowship was made possible by Elina and Nikhil Meswani and family.

The second, the **J-WAFS Graduate Student Fellowship** will support at least one student for one semester in AY22. This fellowship is supported by members of the J-WAFS Research Affiliate Program. 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 supports this fellowship.

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 nomination deadline, **April 21st, 2021**. Nominees should be engaged in research focused on alleviating problems of water supply or other solutions-based research and innovation related to the water sector. They should also have a clear research question and plan that they are actively pursuing. J-WAFS seeks students with outstanding academic credentials for these fellowships; candidates should be able to demonstrate a GPA of 4.5 or higher.

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 **Wednesday, April 21st, 2021**.

Selection Process

Meswani Fellows and J-WAFS Graduate Student Fellows are selected by J-WAFS with input from faculty 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.

At least two fellows are expected to be funded for 2021-2022. Award decisions will be announced in May of 2021. The successful recipients will be asked to provide a photograph, a one-paragraph bio, one-paragraph research description, and two-to-three-minute video summarizing their research for use on the J-WAFS website and in other J-WAFS materials.

Submission

The Nomination Form and Part 1 supporting documents (CV, transcript, statement of interest) should be submitted online no later than 5:00 pm EST on **Wednesday, April 21st, 2021**. The form can be accessed at <https://webportalapp.com/webform/jwafsfellowship>.

Part 1 may be submitted by the student candidate OR by the nominating faculty (or her/his assistant). Part 2 (nominating letter) must be submitted by the nominating faculty or her/his assistant.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The webform doesn't have a save function. Please review all fields in advance and complete in one setting. The fields and instructions from the webform are noted on the next page for reference, but must be completed on line.

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

2021 Call for Nominations: J-WAFS Fellowships for Water Solutions

Listed below is the information that is needed for the online submission form. Please use the list below as a reference as you compile your application submission materials.

Access the webform at: <https://webportalapp.com/webform/jwafsfellowship>

Faculty Nominator Information

First Name:

Last Name:

MIT Department, Lab, or Center:

Relationship to student:

- Advisor
- Thesis committee member
- Other

Student Information

First Name:

Preferred First Name:

Last Name:

Gender:

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer not to answer

Preferred Pronouns

- He/Him/His
- She/Her/Hers
- They/Their/Theirs
- Other (please fill in below)

Email address:

Postal mailing address:

Cell phone number:

Additional Information

MIT Department, Lab, or Center student belongs to:

Date student started doctoral program (month/year):

Date of completion of doctoral qualifying exam (must be before 4/21/21):

Anticipated Date of Graduation (month/year):

MIT graduate studies GPA:

Research topic (no more than six words):

Use this space to note any additional considerations for the review committee:

Application Submission

Via the online webform, you will upload the nominated student's CV, transcript, and statement of interest. Please note all instructions before proceeding. This form does not allow saving as you go.

Tasks:

- **Upload student curriculum vitae**

- **Upload student transcript**

(Please upload a current, unofficial copy of the student's transcript. This can be obtained free of charge from Student Financial Services. Please contact them directly for instructions given restricted campus access under Covid.)

Student's statement of interest

This is not a research proposal but a statement by and about the nominated student. The statement should have the student's name in the heading and should directly address the following three questions:

- 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? (1-2 paragraphs)
- 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? (1-2 paragraphs)

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.

Tasks:

- **Upload student statement of interest**

Letter of Nomination (Please send by email)

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 jwafsapply@mit.edu.

Tasks:

- **Email letter of nomination to jwafsapply@mit.edu**

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

