



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
Eating for the Future
Predoctoral Fellowship Program
Academic Year 2009-2010

Application Deadline: April 3, 2009
Announcement of Awards: May 2009

The Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future (CLF) is now accepting applications for its **Eating for the Future Predoctoral Fellowship Program**. CLF's Eating for the Future (EFF) Fellowship program was established to support predoctoral students at Johns Hopkins University who are committed to the discovery and/or application of knowledge about the environmental, economic, social and health impacts of current food systems in the U.S. and/or abroad; sustainable alternatives to current food systems; increasing food security; appropriate food choices for ecological and human health; and effective health promotion, behavior change, economic, policy and other interventions related to dietary choices.

Johns Hopkins students from any division within the university are eligible to receive support during any stage of their doctoral program (PhD, DrPH, etc.), including those *applying* to a doctoral program at the time of this application.

Each predoctoral fellowship provides one year of support in an amount up to \$60,000 to be used for tuition, stipend, and/or research expenses depending on individual needs. Current CLF fellows may apply for support during the upcoming 2009 - 2010 academic year and will be considered in equal competition with all other applicants. While there is no limitation to the number of times an individual may be supported as an EFF predoctoral fellow, it is expected that students will seek other sources of funding support as they progress through their academic programs.

During the fellowship award period, EFF Fellows will be expected to: maintain regular communication with CLF's EFF program director; provide periodic research updates; participate in relevant CLF events and activities; represent CLF at selected meetings; and, serve as a scientific resource to CLF to the extent possible. In addition, EFF Fellows will be asked to present their research findings at several CLF-hosted research forums both during and following the award period. It is hoped that these activities will enrich fellows' education and training experiences and expand their professional networks in the field.

**EFF PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP AWARDS FOR THE 2009 – 2010 ACADEMIC YEAR
WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN EARLY MAY 2009**

EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF FELLOWS

Applications will be evaluated by a Faculty Review Committee on the basis of the applicant's academic ability and achievement, career goals, relevance of the proposed course of study to the purpose of the Fellowship, and the feasibility of that course of study at Johns Hopkins University. If applicable, the scholarly merit and feasibility of a research proposal will be considered as part of the overall application (see below).

APPROPRIATE AREAS OF STUDY

Suitable topics for doctoral study supported by CLF's Eating for the Future Predoctoral Fellowship include discovery and/ or application of knowledge in the following areas. Interdisciplinary approaches are particularly encouraged.

- Evaluating health impacts of increasing access to healthy food choices;
- Cultural, societal, and environmental factors that influence food purchasing;
- The effects of a high meat diet on human health and / or the environment;
- Studying public health, economic, social or environmental impacts of local food production;
- Food system analysis including mapping and other techniques, for purposes including gauging geographic risk factors for health outcomes;
- Health impact of altering a food environment (i.e. new store, neighborhood gardens, changing existing store, etc.);
- Benefits of community involvement in food system improvement;
- Analysis of the economic, racial, social, health and environmental implications of current public and private food system structures and practices;
- Examining policy development supporting sustainable, equitable food production systems;
- Analysis of current federal, state and local laws and / or international laws and trade agreements influencing food systems;
- Efficacy of a weekly messaging / prompt for influencing health knowledge, attitudes and behavior compared with prompts of other frequencies;
- Methods for communicating with the public and food suppliers about environmental impacts of food, and for quantifying these impacts;
- Effective health communication / social marketing approaches for influencing food purchasing and diet related behaviors;
- Documentation and analysis of successful health promotion / behavior change interventions, especially those utilizing periodic messages and / or prompts;
- Ethical and moral factors influencing food policy and / or dietary behaviors.

APPLICATION:

In order to be considered for the EFF Predoctoral Fellowship, ALL application materials, including supporting documents, must be received in both hard copy at the CLF office AND as an electronic Word Document by email attachment by 5:00 pm on Friday, April 3, 2009.

NOTE: There is no need to include a cover letter. All pertinent information should be included in the actual application.

1. COVER SHEET with the following information:

- Applicant's name and full contact information (home address, school address, phone number & email);
- Academic status at the time of this application (e.g., 1st year PhD, etc.);
- Anticipated academic status for 2009 -2010 (e.g., 2nd year etc)
- Department/division.
- Name of departmental advisor.
- Name of research advisor (if applicable)
- Anticipated timeline for Oral Exams (Departmental and Schoolwide), IRB approval and completion of dissertation (if applicable)

IMPORTANT: In the upper right hand corner of the title page, please write:
Eating for the Future Predoctoral Fellowship

2. Current Biographical Sketch:

Please include educational background (names of all post-secondary institutions attended, years attended, degrees received), list of any honors, awards, fellowships, employment, and publications. Follow Biographical Sketch sample on [NIH Application Form 398](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketchsample.doc)
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketchsample.doc>

3. Personal statement:

The personal statement (no more than three (3) pages, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font) should explain the applicant's interest in the EFF Predoctoral Fellowship Program. This statement should include: a description of the applicant's motivation, interests, educational and career goals (both short and long term) and a description of the applicant's planned program of study.

4. Proposed Research:

A written description of the applicant's proposed research idea – including a clear hypothesis and relevance to CLF. The statement should be *no more than* two (2) pages, double-spaced, in 12-point, Times New Roman font (Not including references). The methods for the proposed research should be outlined in broad terms. Please include a letter from your department chair indicating departmental approval for your research proposal.

An applicant who will be first or second year students may not have a departmentally approved research proposals. Instead, the two pages of this section may be used to outline potential areas of interest for dissertation research.

5. Budget:

Describe and justify how the applicant intends to use the funds requested during the fellowship period in a (one page) summary. Other sources of funding (both secured and potential) for the applicant's doctoral study must be indicated. NOTE: List all pending application for funding including amounts requested and expected notification dates. For 3rd year students and later, also specify any previous funding sought and the outcome.

Include an itemization and short explanation with the following topics:

- *Tuition*

Note: Only 1st and 2nd year doctoral students are eligible to receive full tuition support. Third and 4th year students may only apply for tuition support that reflects a shortfall in departmental tuition waiver / support.

- *Cost of living stipend*

Use the following categories - (Room, Board, Transportation, Books & Supplies, Insurance and Personal). Maximum living stipend will be based on cost of living in Baltimore for 11 months for the 2009-2010 academic year. See:

http://www.jhsph.edu/student_affairs/financial/cost_living/

- *Research costs*

Up to \$20,000 will be provided for research related expenses, only for those who have successfully completed oral exams (or with strong justification for an exception) Provide sufficient detail for the Faculty Review Committee to clearly understand the need, including a detailed justification for research funds in excess of \$20,000.

- *Other*

List additional costs not included in the above. Include sufficient detail for the Faculty Review Committee to understand the need.

NOTE: Under terms of the EFF Predoctoral Fellowship, fellows who are receiving stipend support as part of their fellowship award may secure additional employment totaling up to 10 hours per week as long as the work complements the Fellow's stated research topic.

6. Supplementary Materials:

Academic transcripts of *all* colleges, universities, graduate or professional schools attended are required. Please request your previous institutions to send official transcripts to you (sealed and signed across seal by the proper authority) and include in your hard copy submission of your application. NOTE: If you have previously applied for a CLF Fellowship you are still required to submit all previous transcripts, as well as an updated transcript from your current institution.

7. Letters of recommendation:

A) For students currently applying to a JHU doctoral program, please submit the following *two* letters:

- A letter of recommendation from a past faculty advisor or research advisor; AND,
- A letter of recommendation from one of the following:

A. The JHU faculty member who will supervise your research; OR,

B. The Chair of the department to which you are applying indicating support for your proposed educational plan and research ideas in terms of relevance and feasibility.

B) For currently enrolled doctoral students at JHU please submit the following *two* letters:

- One letter of recommendation from your current faculty advisor; AND,
- One letter of recommendation from the faculty member who is supervising your research or has agreed to do so. This letter should indicate support for your proposed research idea and educational plan in terms of its relevance and feasibility.

The completed application must be received by 5:00 pm Friday, April 3, 2009 both in hard copy at the CLF office and emailed as a Word document.

Submit materials to:

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Baltimore, MD 21205-2179
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For further information contact:

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