

Evans Family Graduate Fellowship in Humanitarian Engineering

Call for Applications Fall 2025: Due Nov. 15th, 2025

The Evans Family Fund for Humanitarian Engineering has been established “to support graduate student fellowships and travel. The fellowships are to be awarded with preference to women, as part of the College's commitment to gender equity, and/or students who are working on research topics associated with developing economies within the broader topic of humanitarian engineering.” Funding priority is given to travel to support field research, followed by conference travel, on-campus research expenses, and finally support for tuition and/or stipend.

Goals:

1. Provide dedicated support for graduate students to gain first-hand experience, conduct research, disseminate research results, or access unique educational opportunities in humanitarian engineering (2-7 students/year).
2. Enrich the OSU campus environment by enhancing linkages and exposure to humanitarian engineering.
3. Leverage experience of supported OSU graduate students through opportunities to share their experiences post-fellowship in a class or other program-related setting, blog post, preparation of related course module for the core curriculum, participation in recruiting events/information nights or other activity that strengthens the program.
4. Support a GTA for curriculum as needed.

Approach:

1. Provide support for graduate student research, travel, and/or other costs (potentially including tuition, materials/supplies, communication).
2. Invite students to share their experiences and/or findings with the OSU community in the humanitarian engineering, science and technology curriculum/program activities and donor relations.

Application process:

1. Types of application:
 - a. Graduate student support (\$2.5-\$15k) – A faculty member nominates a student for up to one term of support. The graduate student can be a new incoming student or current OSU student. The faculty member must provide a one-page nomination letter describing: i) how the student and project address the selection criteria; ii) the intended source of ongoing support if the nominee is a new student; iii) the impact of the award on the student (e.g. does it enable a student to join a program, conduct a field visit, or attend a conference who otherwise might not be able to do so?); and iv) the student's unique qualifications for this award. In addition to the nomination letter, the nominating faculty member will provide a proposed budget and a current

copy of the student's CV or copy of the student's application to OSU.

- b. Conference travel or field visit/project travel (\$5k)- A current OSU student can submit an application for a travel fellowship to participate in a conference, a workshop, a field visit, field immersion (e.g. field course or workshop), or project travel. The application consists of a one-page cover letter, a supporting letter from an OSU faculty member (see details in point 1a), a proposed budget, and a current CV for the student. The cover letter should include: i) justification for participation in the conference/workshop or anticipated outcome from field/project travel; ii) how the travel satisfies the selection criteria; and iii) a plan to share experiences and/or findings post-fellowship on campus (which could be part of a departmental/unit series or scheduled separately); if a formal seminar is not an appropriate venue, other options include preparation of case study material, short presentations in a related class setting or at a humanitarian engineering recruiting or information event.
 - c. Graduate Student Recruiting - A faculty member nominates a potential graduate student for either a. or b. above during the recruiting cycle. The faculty member must provide a one-page nomination letter including all of the details in a., plus a proposed budget and a copy of the student's application to OSU. If the student is selected for Evans funding, an award letter can be included in the student's offer letter. If the student does not ultimately matriculate to OSU, the funds will be returned to the pool for distribution in a future funding call.
2. The total amount to be awarded is approximately \$25K/year; ideally, a minimum of 4 awards for travel will be given per year and the remainder of the funds may be used for travel or tuition/stipend.
 3. Graduate students in good standing both inside and outside of the College of Engineering are eligible for funding, however, the impact on humanitarian engineering program development (e.g. post-award seminar, development of case study or other curricular material, seed funding for projects involving affiliated faculty, etc.) must be clearly identified in the application. Preference may be given to students within the College of Engineering or those actively working in collaboration with students and faculty in the College of Engineering.
 4. Applications must be submitted via email as a single .pdf file to Nordica MacCarty, Nordica.MacCarty@oregonstate.edu by 5PM on the due date. Please include the last name of the applicant and 'Evans fellowship' in the filename.

Selection Criteria:

A committee will meet to select awardees based on the following criteria:

1. Funding priority is given to travel to support field research, followed by conference travel, on-campus research expenses, and finally support for tuition and/or stipend
2. Likelihood of success (feasibility) of undertaking
3. Expected contribution to OSU and the broader humanitarian engineering community
4. Student record of commitment to local and global community service (if applicable)
5. Commitment by OSU faculty adviser to student and project
6. Importance to ongoing and future OSU endeavors.

Accessing Funds:

Details on how to access funds will be provided after initial reporting requirements are fulfilled (see below). To avoid tax liability for the student, funds disbursement typically involves submission reimbursement through OSU's concur expense reporting system. In other cases, funds may be awarded via a lump sum payment to a graduate student's account.

Funds should be used within one year of the award. Extensions are likely available but should be confirmed with the program director if needed.

Reporting Requirements:

We are grateful for the support of the Evans Family and other donors who have enabled us to offer this fellowship program. Tracking and reporting how the funds are used is critical for our ability to continue offering such opportunities and to grow our ability to support other program opportunities. The reporting requirements outlined below are intended to provide content for our promotional material, faculty-led proposals, and as a mechanism for sharing your experience with others at OSU. We appreciate your cooperation with the reporting efforts and your willingness to participate in the occasional recruiting, informational, or OSU foundation sessions/events.

Pre-Award: All awardees will be required to fill out a pre-award form that includes: submission of a head shot and a 75-word description of your project for the humanitarian engineering website; student ID number; a commitment to post-fellowship reporting; and, as available, a commitment to sharing your experience at a recruiting event/information session or similar forum and/or with donors. You must complete this form to receive funds.

Post-Award: All awardees are required to prepare at least a 5-slide powerpoint presentation using a fellowship template and to upload at least 3-5 pictures with a list of captions that the program can use in our communications. Where possible, all awardees may also be required to contribute to the program by sharing experiences in a 10-15 minute presentation in a HEST class such as HEST310 or HEST320, preparing a case study for HEST412/512, or by sharing experiences in one of the aforementioned forums (recruiting event, information session, donor event). Links for the powerpoint template, folder for uploading photographs and other reporting requirements are provided via the required post-award form each fellow will complete. In addition, students are invited to contribute to the humanitarian engineering student blog at blogs.oregonstate.edu/humanitarian, and strongly encouraged to handwrite a personal thank-you note to the donors.

Finally, our generous benefactors Dick and Gretchen Evans visit campus regularly and appreciate meeting our Fellows. Awardees will be invited to meet with the Evans to share updates on their work.