

Urban Graduate Fellow Program

FY 2022 Program Information



Application Deadline: July 31, 2021

Application Submission: Email applications to Metro.Center@wsu.edu
Subject: WCMER Urban Graduate Fellows Program

For additional information, contact Brad Gaolach, Director WCMER, at 425-405-1734 or gaolach@wsu.edu

The Western Center for Metropolitan Extension and Research (WCMER) is a multi-university collaboration established by the Western Extension Directors Association to increase the internal capacity of Extension programs to address metropolitan issues, and to elevate the stature and value of Cooperative Extension to external metropolitan audiences. Since its founding in 2014 we have focused our applied research efforts on best Extension practices and issues facing metropolitan areas. Our professional development activities have focused on supporting the institutional and organizational aspects of successful urban Extension programs, with a goal of better aligning programs and program delivery with the needs, issues and interest of their metropolitan constituency. Institutional membership in the WCMER has increased from the six founding university Extension members to twelve, with members in each of the 4 ECOP geographical regions. This expanded membership has allowed us to broaden our collaborations and reach and engage in new projects that advance the knowledge base of Extension work in our metropolitan regions.

Program Description

The WCMER is committed to enhancing Extension's, and the broader land-grant university system's, activities and impact in metropolitan communities. To accomplish this goal, WCMER will support community-engaged scholars. The WCMER Urban Graduate Fellow Program (WUGFP) will allow post-graduate students pursuing Master's or Doctoral degrees to work with the WCMER and faculty from member institutions to conduct applied research, develop new or sharpen existing skills related to working in metropolitan communities, develop and / or pilot new programs, conduct feasibility studies for new programmatic areas, or co-author scholarly products.

Graduate fellowships can range from one semester or quarter up to a full academic year including summer terms. WUGFP activities must be completed during a single WCMER fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). Fellowships can be virtual with the fellow remaining at their home institution, or residential with travel to a host institution, including metropolitan located Extension offices or community-based partners.

Applicants must identify a mentor from a WCMER platinum member institution (see <https://metroextension.wsu.edu/platinum-members/>). Although it is not required, we suggest that the mentor be an Extension professional. Applicants may also choose to work with WCMER directly, in which case you should identify a mentor from the WCMER leadership team (see <https://metroextension.wsu.edu/about-us/directory/>).

The WCMER is a membership-based organization; therefore, funding available for the WUGFP is dependent upon WCMER annual funding for the program. The WCMER will make every effort to make awards for FY22, contingent upon availability of funds by September 1, 2021. WUGFP proposals eligible for funding (see Eligibility) will require a fiscal agreement between the Fellow, their home institution, and the WCMER. It is WCMER's intention to follow the fiscal policies of the home and host institutions wherever applicable. Because this program is funded out of WCMER general membership funds, WCMER does not allow any indirect or F&A charges on the award.

Eligibility

Any individual who will be enrolled in an accredited graduate program leading towards a Master's or terminal degree program during the duration of the Fellowship is eligible. Applicants from a WCMER platinum member institution will be eligible for a WUGFP stipend of up to \$2,500. See the WCMER member page to see if your institution is a member: <https://metroextension.wsu.edu/wcmer-member-benefits/>.

Proposal and Submission Instructions

Applicants are required to submit a stand-alone PDF file that contains the following information:

Section A: Cover Page (not to exceed 1 page)

1. Names, affiliations, and contact information of the WUGFP applicant.
2. Name, affiliations and contact information of the WCMER host advisor
3. Thesis, Dissertation, research statement title.
4. Month and year entered graduate program and expected completion.
5. Major Advisor and contact information.
6. Anticipated start and end dates of WUGFP.
7. Requested funding (if eligible, see instructions)

Section B: Project Description (not to exceed 4 pages, Calibri 11 pt font or larger, 1" margins)

1. An introduction that provides background context and describes the significance of your graduate research program. Assume the reader has no previous knowledge of your subject area or work.
2. What are you proposing to accomplish during the WUGFP? This may be directly related to your graduate program or could be an opportunity to explore something new. If it is not directly related to your graduate program, please expand on why you want to pursue these activities and how it will help your overall career path.
3. Objectives of the work to be conducted during the WUGFP.
4. Methods used and any materials required to accomplish the proposed activities, if necessary.
5. Resources currently available at the host location to support the proposed activities.
6. Expected outputs and impacts of the proposed activities.
7. Benefits of the proposed activities to WCMER, Extension in general, and the WUGFP mentor.
8. Description of how the WUGFP will enhance the skills and capabilities of the applicant.

Section C: Attachments

1. Current Curriculum Vitae or detailed resume.
2. Assurances of Cooperation from host mentor: (attach letter(s) of support)
3. A letter from the applicant's major advisory indicating knowledge of and approval of the for submission of the application and of the proposed activities.

Application Review and Selection

Proposals will be reviewed by the WCMER Advisory Board, with the WCMER Director making the final selection.

FY 2022 Topics of Interest

The WCMER will accept applications on any topic that addresses the goals and mission of WCMER. For the current round of funding, WCMER is especially interested in applications that address or relate to:

1. All aspects related to the on-going impacts of and recovery from the pandemic.
2. The current social and political justice movements.
3. Building on current or past WCMER Deep Dives (see: <https://metroextension.wsu.edu/deep-dive/>).
4. Building on one of the topics addressed in the *Leading Edge Dialogue Series* the WCMER completed in 2021 (see: <https://metroextension.wsu.edu/2020/04/13/led/>).