

CEI Graduate Fellowship 2026–2027



Fellowship Program Includes:

Two academic quarters of salary and tuition support

CEI Interdisciplinary Seminar Series

Communications workshops

Industry networking events

Tours and field trips

Outreach events

Research poster sessions

Courses qualify towards Graduate Certificate in Clean Energy Science, Engineering, & Society

Objective

The purpose of the Graduate Fellowship is:

1. To encourage excellence in clean energy research and education by supporting highly talented, motivated, and engaged graduate students.
2. To prepare and empower the next generation of clean energy leaders and innovators to have broader impacts on society; for example, through technology transfer and commercialization, education and public outreach, science communication and mentorship.

Program Details

The Clean Energy Institute Graduate Fellowship provides UW students the opportunity to help shape the clean energy future of the Pacific Northwest and the global energy economy.

The program provides two quarters of salary and tuition support during the academic year for Ph.D. research in CEI focus areas, including solar energy, energy storage, energy systems, and advanced materials & measurements.

CEI Graduate Fellows have opportunities to participate in social and networking events, poster sessions, communications workshops, community outreach, industry field trips, and lab tours throughout the year. Students may apply for travel grant funding to attend conferences and present their research. The CEI Interdisciplinary Seminar Series provides Fellows the chance to host and meet internationally renowned experts, while connecting with peers across the university.

Qualifications

Outstanding candidates will demonstrate potential for research excellence, propose research relevant to the CEI mission areas, and provide evidence they will be active participants and leaders within the broader CEI community.

Application

See reverse for details on application requirements, evaluation and award criteria. To submit an [application](https://www.cei.washington.edu/education/uw-graduate-students/graduate-fellowship/), visit <https://www.cei.washington.edu/education/uw-graduate-students/graduate-fellowship/>.

Applications open on April 1, 2026 and all application materials must be submitted by 11:59 pm on May 1, 2026.



This program provides two quarters of salary and tuition support during the academic year, and the designation as a CEI Graduate Fellow to pursue Ph.D. research in CEI focus areas.

Financial Support

RA salary and tuition provided for two quarters during the period from September 15, 2026 through June 15, 2027 at the fellow's departmental salary rate. No materials and supplies or equipment will be provided. Fellows may hold the honorific title of CEI Graduate Fellow at the same time as an NSF, DoD, NDSEG or other external fellowship, but may not accept CEI Graduate Fellowship funding in an amount that would increase their pay beyond their standard departmental RA rate.

Eligibility

To be eligible for fellowships during the 2026-2027 academic year, students must have begun their doctoral study between June 1, 2023 and September 31, 2025 and should not be planning to graduate before June 15, 2027. Incoming first-year students are not eligible; students must have begun their Ph.D. studies and selected an advisor before applying for the CEI Graduate Fellowship.

No more than three students may apply from a single research group. In the event that more than one student from a single research group applies, the advisor must rank order nominees from their group in terms of combined overall potential for excellence in research and service.



Application Requirements

Students should apply directly. The application should consist of: (i) a 150 (max) word statement of the student's anticipated research during the award period; (ii) a 150 word (max) statement regarding the student's graduation timeline and career goals; (iii) a 150 word (max) description of relevant leadership activities; (iv) a 150 word (max) description of the transformative potential of this fellowship; (v) a CV (not to exceed two pages) listing undergraduate GPA, UW graduate GPA, publications, presentations, awards, and participation in education and broader community activities; and (vi) two letters of reference, at least one of which is from a UW faculty member. After submitting their application, students are also responsible for contacting their references and asking them to upload their letters via the [reference letter submission form](#) on the CEI Graduate Fellowship application webpage.

All application materials, including 2 letters of reference, must be submitted by 11:59 pm on May 1, 2026. Students are strongly encouraged to apply in advance of this deadline to allow time for reference letter submission.

Evaluation & Announcement Date

[Evaluation criteria](#) will include, but are not limited to: (i) demonstrated potential for research excellence; (ii) relevance of the proposed research project to the CEI mission areas; (iii) evidence that the Fellow is (or will become) an active participant and leader in the broader CEI community; (iv) the transformative potential of research and participation in the program, and (v) the potential for this research to enable a student to make a meaningful pivot to apply AI, machine learning, or high-throughput discovery expertise and methodology to clean energy projects.

Final decisions will be announced by early June.

Award Criteria

As a condition of the award, Fellows participate in onboarding and professional development workshops held in fall 2026 and register for the 1-unit CEI seminar during fall, winter, and spring quarters. Fellows are also expected to work with the CEI Associate Director of Education & Workforce Engagement in support of broader CEI education activities, and will prepare a product of lasting value by June 1, 2027. A completed product and documentation of at least two outreach visits are required to receive credit for the spring seminar series. All presentations and publications produced with support from the CEI Graduate Fellowship should include the acknowledgement "This material is based in part upon work supported by the state of Washington through the University of Washington Clean Energy Institute."