

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** NatSci Graduate Training Community

**From:** Amy Ralston, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

**Subject:** Funding Opportunity Announcement – NatSci Great IDEA Fellowships

**Date:** 11/16/2022

### **Award description:**

The College of Natural Science is launching a new graduate fellowship to enable mentored projects that promote Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) in STEM at MSU.

The Great IDEA Fellowships will be awarded by competitive process to 8-10 graduate student-mentor pairs who commit to dedicating a portion of their efforts to advancing IDEA efforts during spring semester, 2023. The Great IDEA fellowships will cover one semester of grad student stipend, up to 9 credits' tuition, and fees in SS23. IDEA Mentors can be the primary research advisor/guidance committee chair or another appropriate faculty/staff person at MSU.

**Expectations** for the Great IDEA Fellows, and their mentors during spring semester 2023 include:

- 25% student effort toward an IDEA project and 75% effort toward dissertation research and/or coursework
- Weekly one-on-one meetings with IDEA Mentor to advance IDEA project goals
- Biweekly meetings of the IDEA Fellows cohort
- Once per semester meeting with NatSci communications to highlight and promote the work of the Great IDEA fellows
- Mid-semester written progress report
- Final presentation to MSU community

**Criteria** for selection may include:

- Track record of contributions to IDEA work by student and/or mentor
- Evidence of research advisor's support for student's IDEA work
- Potential for the IDEA project to have a major or sustained impact on the research climate at MSU
- Potential for the IDEA project to elevate recognition or perceptions of the research climate at MSU
- Innovativeness of the IDEA project
- Feasibility of the IDEA project (including plan details, milestones, measures of success/impact)
- Student scholarly achievements

### **Eligibility:**

- Graduate students must be in good standing in a NatSci graduate program
- Graduate students who have accepted a TA assignment for SS23 are not eligible to apply

**To apply:**



College of  
Natural Science

Office of the Dean

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Submit the following five documents, submitted as a single PDF, in this order to [starn@msu.edu](mailto:starn@msu.edu) by 12/01/2022 at 11:59 pm:

1. Student CV highlighting scholarly achievements and past contributions to IDEA work
2. Student-written proposal for IDEA project in SS23. The plan should address the following elements (in any order) in 1-3 pages:
  - a. Title and purpose of the IDEA project
  - b. Description of how the IDEA project is innovative
  - c. Description of the IDEA project's potential impact on the MSU research climate
  - d. Description for the IDEA project's potential to elevate recognition or perceptions of the MSU research climate
  - e. Weekly goals for the IDEA project, plus key milestones or measures of success
3. Mentor CV highlighting past contributions to IDEA work
4. Letter of commitment from primary research advisor/committee chair (only in the case that the IDEA mentor is someone other than the primary research advisor)
5. Most recent graduate guidance committee report or student annual performance review (no older than 12 months prior to nomination due date).

Please direct your questions to: [aralston@msu.edu](mailto:aralston@msu.edu)