GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY | **Center for Resilient and Sustainable Communities**

2022-23 C-RASC Graduate Research Fellowship Application

Application Deadline: June 8, 2022; application review begins immediately
Posted Date: May 23, 2022
Pay: Standard MS or PhD GRA Stipend; Tuition support

I. **Purpose:** The following Transdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship Program is supported by Mason's Center for Resilient and Sustainable Communities (C-RASC) and the Office of Graduate Education to: 1) provide a full Graduate Research Assistantship package for up to two Mason graduate students who would not otherwise have one available; and 2) to support new or ongoing transdisciplinary research projects on community resilience and/or sustainability that align with C-RASC's research portfolio and could lead to future extramural research funding.

II. **Program Overview & Position Description:** This merit-based program is designed to provide up to two graduate students' tuition (up to 9 credits) and health care subsidies (subject to health care applicability requirements) through Mason's Office of Graduate Education. It is expected that the fellows' GRA stipends will be partially or fully covered by the PI (lead mentor) via funds from their school/unit, department, extramural funding, or other funds. The Fellow must support new or ongoing research activities (e.g., data collection, data analysis, writing, etc.) related to community resilience and/or sustainability with the potential to lead to future research funding. This includes, but is <u>not limited to</u>, projects related to social, political, environmental, ecological and/or technological aspects of topics such as:
   - Hazards, Risks, and Disasters
   - Infrastructure Resilience
   - Cyber and Cyber-Physical Systems Resilience
   - Coastal/Ecosystem Resilience
   - Natural Resource Use/Management
   - Water/Energy/Transportation/Agriculture
   - Pandemic Resilience
   - Community Well-Being (e.g., Food Security, Health Outcomes, Civic Engagement, Social Equity, Digital Divide)
   - Sustainability/Sustainable Development

III. **Eligibility:**
   - Students must be enrolled in a Mason graduate degree program for the duration of the academic year and have good academic standing (GPA 3.0 or above)
   - The Fellow may not already have their tuition waiver or a health subsidy covered through any other program.
   - The Fellow must be mentored by a transdisciplinary team of at least three Mason faculty representing both qualitative and quantitative research expertise and from at least two different Mason colleges or schools.
   - At least one member of the mentor team needs to be formally affiliated with C-RASC at the time of applying. To learn more about C-RASC membership, visit https://c-rasc.gmu.edu/join-us/

- A PI (lead mentor), mentor team member, or Fellow may participate in only one proposal in response to this solicitation per fiscal year.
- To request renewal of a Fellowship for an additional year, the PI must submit a new, competitive application to request renewal. In such cases, the Fellow's previous outcomes and deliverables will also be considered.
- Applications must have an active IRB or IACUC protocol and any other approvals necessary to complete the proposed research at the time of the award.

IV. **Requirements:**
- Experience with data analytics and data collection
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite and statistical packages
- Strong academic record

V. **Location:** Mason's Fairfax Campus, on-site as conditions permit and warrant

VI. **Work schedule:** GRA position is for 20 hours per week. Specific onsite or virtual hours can be adjusted based on current semester class schedule and should be coordinated with supervisor (PI). The GRA is expected to keep a regular schedule, but may be asked to be flexible to support special needs (e.g., proposal submission) or special events.

VII. **Report to:** The GRA reports to the specific PI listed in the application.

VIII. **Award Information:**
- **Amount:** Selected fellows will receive up to 9 credits of tuition per semester and, if eligible, a health care subsidy. The candidate will also receive a GRA stipend. The stipend can be paid from a grant, and optionally, partially funded by C-RASC, depending on need and availability of funds. C-RASC's supplemental stipend support for any single proposal will not exceed $10k.
- **Award Term:** The award term for the Fellowship is one academic year (Fall/Spring).
- **Reporting:** Awarded applicants must submit a final report at the end of the award term (Template will be provided). Awarded applicants will also be invited to present their work in a webinar, seminar or similar.

IX. **Application Process**
The PI and proposed fellow should collaboratively complete and submit the following as a single PDF to crasc@gmu.edu with subject "C-RASC Graduate Research Fellowship Application <FELLOW-LAST-NAME>" by **June 8, 2022.**
1. **Cover page:**
    a. Include a descriptive project title with the names and departments of the lead mentor (PI), the proposed fellow, and the mentor team members, along with the total stipend supplement being requested from C-RASC, if any.
2. **Project Description and Timeline (not to exceed 3 single-spaced pages). Please include the following:**
    a. **Project overview:** non-technical description of the overall project and purpose
    b. **Research objectives/questions**

      c. **<u>Intellectual Merit:</u>** description of how the project advances transdisciplinary knowledge of the proposed topic
      d. **<u>Broader impacts:</u>** description of anticipated community benefits/broader impacts
      e. **<u>Deliverables/outcomes:</u>** the student/team will produce by the end of the fellowship
      f. **<u>Timeline/Gantt chart:</u>** showing how work will progress, including milestones (e.g., grant proposals, publications) and mentoring activities

3. **Fellow Qualifications (not to exceed 1 single-spaced page). Please include the following:**
      a. Student's name, program and current status (e.g., years in program; pre-candidacy, candidate)
      b. Description of student's role in the proposed project, his/her qualifications to perform that role, and his/her interest in or experience with transdisciplinary research
      c. Explanation of how the student will remain productive on the project while keeping with thesis/dissertation timelines

4. **Mentoring Plan (not to exceed 1 single-spaced page). Please include the following:**
      a. Faculty team members' expertise and roles and contributions to Fellow's growth
      b. Mentor team's experience collaborating with each other and with the proposed fellow, if any.
      c. Coordination plan (e.g., how often will the team meet? What will each mentor's engagement with the fellow entail?)

5. **Requested Stipend Support and Justification:**
      a. Supplemental stipend support being requested from C-RASC, if any
      b. Explanation of complementary stipend support provided by the PI (e.g., support from school/unit, department, extramural funding)
      c. Specific extramural grant proposal(s) this project would support, and brief plan for developing the proposal

6. **Fellow, PI and Team Members' Biographical Sketches:** Not to exceed two pages each; NSF-format is appropriate.

X. Selection: The Center for Resilient and Sustainable Communities awards Fellowships upon recommendation of the Director, in consultation with the Assistant Director for Research Operations and an appointed, ad-hoc committee of at least 3 C-RASC members. Members cannot serve on a review committee for their own seed funding requests. *Note: In the event that the Director submits an application as a PI or mentor team member, an alternative member of the leadership team will make the final award recommendations in consultation with the Assistant Director for Research Operations.*

XI. Equity Statement: C-RASC is committed to promoting inclusion and equity in its community and complies with Mason's Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Statement of Policy. All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression), race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, protected veteran status, or any characteristic protected by law.

XII. Contact Information: Please contact crasc@gmu.edu with any questions.