

Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship Announcement

Due: Deadline as posted on the ME Grad Blog.

The Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship provides support for outstanding PhD candidates in their final year of doctoral degree completion. The goal of the fellowship is to allow exceptional candidates to focus on finishing their dissertation. We will award the fellowship to 4 students for 2023-24; that number can change each year.

Salary & Usage:

- Bilsland Fellowships are administered as assistantships. It is expected that job duties will contribute to the completion of the student's dissertation.
- Bilsland must be awarded in the student's last year and the student is expected to graduate at the end of the fellowship term.
- This fellowship includes \$28,600 annual salary, tuition remission, medical insurance premium contribution, and coverage of most fees. Engineering differential fee is not covered. Schools/advisors may choose to cover this from their discretionary account.
- No additional work appointments may be added, but faculty or schools may increase the salary or provide additional funds such as scholarships, etc.
- This year's Bilsland allocation may be used Summer 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, or Summer 2024 (Maximum length is 12 months).
- Fellowship recipients who graduate before the completion of the fellowship term or otherwise stop the fellowship before the awarded duration forfeit any remaining funds. Fellowship money may not be condensed into a shorter time frame to increase the bi-weekly pay amount.
- Funding is non-renewable and cannot be extended past the award period. The student is expected to graduate at the conclusion of the award period.

Student Eligibility

- At the time of nomination, students must have 1) completed their preliminary exam or, 2) will complete their preliminary exam before May 31.
- Students who will complete their defense prior to September 1, are not eligible.
- Students who need less than 1 semester of support are not eligible.
- Nominees must be outstanding engineering PhD students.

Selection Criteria:

The review process within the program will rank nominees using the following review criteria:

- Merit. Includes publications, conference presentations, GPA, etc.
- Funding need.

- Good citizen of the School and College. Includes service.
- Career promise. Includes leadership, innovation, readiness and potential to make an impact.

How to Apply:

ME students who wish to apply shall submit the following documents as one PDF file to the Grad Office (megradoffice@purdue.edu) before the deadline. Nomination letters can be sent to megradoffice@purdue.edu directly by major professors, but subject line must specify student and which award applies. Late applications will not be considered.

Application materials include:

1. Cover page indicates applicants' name, PUID, major professor name, expected graduation date, gender, citizenship, and ethnicity. (This information is used for data tracking and to assign source of funds. Some funds come from endowed accounts with restrictions on them.) Please also indicate which semesters you'd like to be supported by the fellowship. For example, Summer 2023 – Spring 2024 or Fall 2023 – Summer 2024.
2. A letter (limit 2 pages) from the major professor nominating the student and confirming the expected graduation date.
3. A statement (limit 2 pages) from the student describes their qualifications.
4. The student's CV.
5. The student's thesis abstract.
6. Preliminary exam paperwork (to confirm the student is on track to graduate next year).
7. The student's most recent transcripts – graduate work only.