USC Dornsife
Wrigley Institute for Environment and Sustainability

November 2026

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT: 2027 Wrigley Institute Graduate Fellowships

The USC Wrigley Institute for Environment and Sustainability is pleased to announce that Graduate Fellowship applications are now open for Spring/Summer 2027, to support USC Dornsife Ph.D. students working in environmental or sustainability themes or at the intersection of environment and society.

The goal of the Wrigley Institute's Graduate Fellowship program is to help develop successful researchers and leaders in environment and sustainability. Fellows join 10-15 graduate students in a cohort of peers from different Dornsife disciplines and contexts. They will meet monthly through the spring to network and enhance their understanding of topics such as academic leadership, science, public policy, communication and storytelling, and preparing for diverse job markets.

Fellows who successfully complete the Spring 2027 cohort program will receive $6,000 in summer support to pursue their research. Fellows are required to participate fully in spring cohort programming to receive the summer stipend.

Proposals are invited from full-time USC Dornsife Ph.D. students in any discipline.

Application Deadline: Sunday, December 6, 2026 (11:59 PM)

LINK TO ONLINE APPLICATION

***Note: USC Dornsife grad students who are exclusively seeking Summer 2027 funding for fieldwork at the Wrigley Marine Science Center (WMSC) on Catalina Island should **not** apply to this cohort program. Separate awards for WMSC summer graduate research are available HERE (funding varies with award). However, interested graduate students are eligible to apply to both programs. Priority deadline is Sunday, December 6, 2026, 11:59 PM (PT).*

Fellowship Guidelines:

Spring Activities: To build a cohesive community of outstanding graduate students in environment and sustainability, USC Fellows will join in cohort activities throughout Spring 2027 (January-April). Fellows will meet monthly for informal meetings with discussions and presentations to build professional skills and community. Fellows are expected to attend all cohort sessions. Fellows who do not fully participate in cohort meeting may receive a reduced stipend or forfeit their summer stipend. *If this commitment is not feasible for Spring 2027, students are encouraged to postpone their applications until the next cycle.*

Summer Funding: Upon successful completion of the spring cohort program, Fellows receive a $6,000 summer stipend to conduct independent research related to their graduate degree under supervision of the student's faculty advisor.

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Engagement: During the Fellowship period, Fellows will be expected to contribute one written blog entry to the Wrigley Institute website. Fellows will be offered additional opportunities to engage in science communications and mentoring as appropriate (e.g., working with the Institute's summer undergraduate internships, serving on career panels, or attending public engagement events).

Close-Out: At the end of Summer 2027, each Fellow is required to submit a two (2) page summary report on their summer research activities and accomplishments, a thank you letter to our funders.

Application Process:

To apply, please submit the following materials through the online application portal (**LINK TO ONLINE APPLICATION**):

1) Research proposal, 3 pages maximum. Please include:

- Introduction: summarizing your research
- Research Goals for Spring/Summer 2027: written for a general science audience
- Broader Impacts: describing the significance of your project for society
- Statement of Interest: describing why you are interested in joining the 2027 cohort of this fellowship program
- Statement of Funding: listing additional anticipated Summer 2027 funding sources (i.e., stipends, fellowships, TA-ships, etc.
- Statement of Travel: listing any planned extended travel away from your research during the fellowship period (January – August 2027)

2) Letter of Support from Faculty Advisor
   - *Please have your advisor upload the letter of support separately by the December 6th deadline at this link. PDF (preferred) or Word docs accepted.*

Applications and advisor letters are due by 11:59 PM (PT) on Sunday, December 6, 2026.

Please send questions to Amber Brown at amberb@usc.edu. Applications will be reviewed by the Wrigley Institute Fellowship Selection Committee, and awards will be announced by late December 2026.

We look forward to supporting your research!

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