The Itasca Biological Station & Laboratories (IBSL) Director’s Graduate Research Fellowship ($5000, maximum) is now open for applications from Graduate Students. The deadline is March 11, 2022 by 5 pm (CST). The Director's Fellowship has historically been to support research with an aquatic component, and students from any University of Minnesota campus are welcome to apply. Please share this opportunity!

Portal for submissions: z.umn.edu/2022IBSLresearchfellowship

To apply as a Graduate Student, submit a 2-page research proposal (max. length, incl. any tables/figures) that includes a work plan and a budget, along with a 2-page biosketch and one support letter from the primary advisor.

Contact IBSL@umn.edu with portal and other questions with "Graduate Fellowships" in the subject line.

Submissions are due no later than 5 pm (CST) on Friday, March 11, 2022.

All award recipients will be notified within two weeks of submission.

Eligibility criteria

- The maximum award will be $5,000.
- Only single-investigator (graduate students, only), single-project proposals allowed.
- Research must be done in or near Itasca State Park.
- Students must be in residence at Itasca Biological Station and Laboratories for at least a portion of their research.
- Applications must be from full-time graduate students at any campus of the University of Minnesota.
- Grants may include funding for research expenses and living expenses.
- Students must be willing to participate in at least one engagement event at Itasca, as well as write a 2-page final report with a non-technical abstract that can be shared with the donors to this Fellowship, along with both scientists and the public.

Resources

Itasca Station has the following facilities, activities, and resources that may enable or leverage proposed research:

- **Dining:** Dining hall (buffet-style meals); In-cabin kitchens in faculty cabins (link for rates)
- **Lodging:** Full-bath and kitchen cabins; Bunkhouses with shared bathhouse facilities; Campsites (link)
- **Digital connectivity:** Telecommuting & Wifi throughout IBSL; video conferencing; landline phones
- **Collaboration:** With adequate planning, IBSL can host gatherings; seminar, writing, meeting spaces.
- **Year-round facilities**: IBSL is open year-round; Many cabins are winterized, and the Biome center and several laboratory spaces remain open all year; July is ‘high season’ at the Station, and advanced planning is always needed to ensure space; flexibility is always prerequisite working at remote facilities
- **Observational field science**: Itasca State Park, Iron Springs Bog SNA, White Earth State Forest, etc.
- **Manipulative field science**: 44-acre ‘South Plot’ 0.5 miles north of State Park (see 15+ page guide to maps of the station, land, soils, forest types, waters, etc. at https://cbs.umn.edu/itasca/facilities/map)
- **Demonstration field science**: 19-acre ‘North Plot’ Science Demonstration Area (SDA) is slated, with interpretive sites, to enable science demonstration and engagement
- **Ongoing data collection**: Examples
  - Microbial endophyte/pathogen/saprophyte transition in wood decomposition (NSF, DOE)
  - Lakes as sinks/sources of greenhouse gases (water quality buoy monitoring) (NSF)
  - Bird parasitism, sediment coring, weather data on site since 1911, mammal tracking, etc.
- **Old data**: Data archiving and digitization efforts; library specific to Itasca (link)
- **Literature**: Itasca Station has over 1000 publications focused locally (link)
- **Environmental history**: The Station (est. 1909) and State Park (est. 1891) are among the oldest in the United States; IBSL has an ongoing history collaboration with State Park Naturalists
- **Kiosk space**: Highly-visible interpretive kiosk spaces at headwaters and at Brower Visitor Center
- **Student/postdoc engagement ‘plug-ins’**: MarketSci at Bemidji & Park Rapids farmers markets; Wet-n-wild headwater weekends; Station tours; Station-led hikes; Park programming on/off campus
- **Teaching**: IBSL hosts Field Biology classes that may synergize with faculty/student research (link)

**Beyond the IBSL campus**, the following facilities, activities and resources are available to enable research:
- Itasca State Park (link) & MN DNR (link) NW Region Office (link); data collection for 100+ years
- Clearwater County Land & Forestry (link); Soil & Water
- Hubbard, Becker, Beltrami, Mahnomen, Polk, Cass, Wadena County offices for Itasca Regional
- White Earth, Red Lake, Leech Lake tribes (annual Wild Rice workshop hosted at IBSL each Sept.)
- State Forest lands (link); State Natural Areas (SNAs) (link): Iron Springs Bog (link), LaSalle Lake (link)
Biome Center 100+ capacity Auditorium

Wet lab facilities (-80 C freezer, autoclave, clean bench, fume hoods, etc.)

Lakeside wet lab teaching/research spaces

Diverse science & nature engagement for students, postdocs, & faculty