

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

2026 GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP COMMON APPLICATION

The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (FW) at Michigan State University is pleased to announce its annual call for graduate fellowship applications. We encourage graduate students to apply! Receiving a fellowship is one way for students to demonstrate their accomplishments and career potential. Fellowship funds can be used in a variety of ways, including funding travel to a workshop or conference, or covering basic life expenses.

FW uses a common application for most graduate fellowships (please note: the Fenske Fellowship and the Pattullo Fellowship are administered through separate application processes). **Fellowships using this common application are listed beginning on Page 2 of this document.** Applications are reviewed by the FW Graduate Committee, which then awards fellowships after consultation with the Department Chair. The committee takes into consideration both student excellence and demonstrated financial need. These fellowships typically range from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per award and more than one student may be selected (varies by fellowship).

Fellowship Information. To be eligible for an FW graduate fellowship, the student must have a graduate advisor. The Wallach Fellowship and Roosevelt Fellowship are open to students from any MSU academic department. The other fellowships that are part of this common application process are open only to graduate students pursuing a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife. **Fellowships are open to all in accordance with MSU's [Anti-Discriminatory Policy](#).**

Responsibilities of Fellowship Awardees. Fellowship funds for 2026 awards will be distributed at the beginning of the fall 2026 semester provided the student is registered at MSU (except for the Wallach and Roosevelt, which are distributed in spring 2026). Fellowship recipients will be asked to provide a brief explanation for how they will use the awarded funds. In addition, recipients will be required to acknowledge and express thanks for their fellowship in a letter to the respective donor families prior to release of fellowship funds. Student recipients also must acknowledge financial support from 'the (fellowship award) within the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University' when appropriate (e.g., research presentations, publications). Fellowship recipients are recognized at the Fisheries and Wildlife Annual Spring Awards Banquet.

The Application Process. **Three Separate Qualtrics Forms are required to constitute a complete application.** The information that each student applicant provides on the [Student Applicant Form](#) will be used to determine eligibility of each applicant for each specific fellowship. Each applicant will be considered for all fellowships for which they are eligible. Applicants will also submit their CV and a 1-page (single spaced) essay to this Applicant Form. In their essay, the student should describe their thesis or dissertation research objective and its relevance, explain how they will allocate the fellowship funds, and describe how receiving a Fellowship would positively influence them professionally. Applicants are also required to identify two references, one of whom must be the applicant's advisor. The student must direct their advisor to submit a recommendation using the [Advisor Recommendation Form](#). The student must also instruct their additional reference to submit a recommendation using the [Additional Reference Form](#).

DUE DATE FOR ALL MATERIALS: January 9, 2026

DIRECT LINK TO STUDENT APPLICATION FORM: https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cA2jr2CP6ssG0iW

DIRECT LINK TO ADVISOR RECOMMENDATION FORM:
https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8Bb8fDkKsl7urFI

DIRECT LINK TO ADDITIONAL REFERENCE FORM:
https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aaQec3P2Z7m51wG

Fellowship Descriptions*

Note: Award amounts vary from \$3,000 - \$5,000 each. Some fellowships may have multiple awardees. Students will be considered for and may receive multiple fellowships if eligible.

SECTION I: OPEN TO MSU GRADUATE STUDENTS IN ANY MAJOR

The Vera M. Wallach Graduate Fellowship. This award is for Michigan State University graduate students studying wildlife management, wildlife ecology, or natural resource management, or conducting Arctic and Antarctic research, with emphasis on the protection and preservation of wildlife in those regions. Funds for this award will be distributed during the spring semester after acknowledgment of award is received. This award is administered by the MSU Graduate School and open to any major – please visit their website for more detailed information: [Vera M. Wallach Fellowship Fund for Graduate Students | The Graduate School](#). Students should use the FW common application form to apply.

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation and Environmental Leadership Fellowship. This fellowship was established to enable graduate students from a variety of disciplines to build their leadership capacity early in their career. Fellowships are intended to help recipients achieve a level of professional and personal growth that prepares them for leadership roles in natural resources and conservation-based organizations and agencies. Funds for this award will be distributed during the spring semester after acknowledgment of award is received. This award is administered by the MSU Graduate School and open to any major – please visit their website for more detailed information: [Theodore Roosevelt Conservation and Environmental Leadership Fellowship | The Graduate School](#). Students should use the FW common application form to apply.

SECTION II: OPEN TO MSU GRADUATE STUDENTS MAJORING IN FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Robert C. Ball and Bety A. Ball Fisheries and Wildlife Fellowship. The purpose of this award is to recognize a student(s) committed to the study of fisheries, limnology, or water quality. Dr. Robert C. Ball was one of the first members of the faculty in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University. He is a well-known and respected limnologist. During his tenure, the limnology program within the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife was highly regarded nationally and he served as the advisor for many graduate students who became well-known limnologists. In addition to his faculty role, Dr. Ball also served as the Director of the Institute for Water Research.

Hal and Jean Glassen Conservation Medicine Fellowship. The purpose of this award is to recognize a student committed to the study of Fish and Wildlife Disease Ecology and Conservation Medicine. Hal and Jean Glassen were avid hunters who believed in the scientific management of wildlife. Lifelong conservationists, they supported research and programs aimed at habitat improvement, sustainable harvest through controlled hunting, and understanding the carrying capacity of land for wildlife. This fellowship was established as a means of providing support to deserving graduate students enrolled in the Fish and Wildlife Disease Ecology and Conservation Medicine Specialization and pursuing graduate-level research related to the goals of this specialization. Student must be a graduate student who is or will be enrolled in the Fish and Wildlife Disease Ecology and Conservation Medicine Specialization pursuing an MS or PhD degree.

The Joseph Laurence Maison Fellowship. The purpose of this award is to recognize a student who is committed to pursuing a career in wildlife conservation. Joe Maison, who was a Michigan outdoorsman and hunter all his life, through experience came to understand something of the lives of local wildlife. He had great respect for the state's animals, birds and fish and appreciated the idea of habitat conservation.

Dr. Howard A. Tanner Fisheries Excellence Fellowship. The purpose of this award is to recognize a student who is committed to fisheries research related to the Great Lakes, connecting waterway or tributary stream research. Dr. Howard Tanner is an alumnus of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife earning his Ph.D. under the direction of Dr. Robert Ball – a well-respected limnologist. In the mid-1960's, Dr. Tanner served as the Chief of the Fisheries Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) where he was heavily involved in the initial salmon stocking in the Great Lakes. From there, he served as the Director of Natural Resources for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University.

John Peters and Marieta Peters Endowed Fellowship. The purpose of this award is to recognize a graduate student who seeks a career in aquatic biology related to fisheries and wetlands resources, an interest in the protection and management of aquatic habitats dealing with issues related to physical changes of channels, water quality, and the allocation of water resources. Dr. Peters professional career spanned 3 decades with Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Bureau of Reclamation, and Environmental Protection Agency. His work focused on the aquatic environment with particular interest in environmental protection of aquatic resources.

***Reminder: All Fellowships listed above use the Common Application described on Page 1. Three separate forms (Student Application Form, Advisor Recommendation Form, Additional Reference Form) are required for a complete application.**

For questions regarding any of the fellowships listed above, please contact Rose Stewart (stewa684@msu.edu).