

**APPLICATION FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY SCHOLAR FELLOWSHIP  
2025-2026  
GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION OF TOXICOLOGY SCHOLARS**

Contingent upon available funding, the Interdisciplinary Environmental Toxicology Program plans to make Graduate Research Assistantship appointments for the 2025-2026 academic year. Successful candidates will have the special designation of **Environmental Toxicology Scholar**. Faculty, please bring this notice to the attention of students who are potential applicants for these awards.

The applications will be due by Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and decisions will be made shortly thereafter. Preference will be given to applicants whose **career and research interests involve health-related aspects** of environmental toxicology. Each application must include all items listed under number three below.

**Incomplete application packages cannot be considered.** Please read the directions carefully and submit your materials in their entirety by 5 pm on Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

1. Applications must be complete and must be received by the Program Coordinator, Synthia Lane, via email at [sjlane@illinois.edu](mailto:sjlane@illinois.edu), by 5:00 pm on Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
2. Applications must be accompanied by a letter from a UIUC faculty member who is a current member or has requested membership, in the Interdisciplinary Environmental Toxicology Program. This letter should state that the faculty member sponsors the applicant for admission to the program and permits the applicant to perform the proposed research in their lab under their direction. Should any program faculty member sponsor more than one applicant, the sponsor must rank applicants.
3. **Each application must include all of the following:**
  - a) A career goal statement that clearly identifies the linkage to endocrine, developmental or reproductive toxicology. Limit this to no more than ½ page, single-spaced typed.
  - b) A research plan that clearly identifies the linkage to Reproductive Toxicology, Endocrine Toxicology, Neurotoxicology, Nutritional Toxicology, or Nanotoxicology. Limit this to no more than two single-spaced typed pages. The research plan must include the following three sections: (1) the rationale for the research; (2) the hypothesis to be tested; and (3) a summary of the methods to be used. **The student's proposed research advisor must sign off on the research proposal as evidence that he or she has read and approved of the proposal.**
  - c) University transcripts (can be unofficial transcripts), which include courses and grades for the last four years of study. Note: a list of courses and grades **cannot** be substituted for actual transcripts.
  - d) Three letters of recommendation: your primary advisor and two other professional references. Each letter should comment on the student's intellectual ability, capacity for original thought, aptitude for research, dependability, integrity, and demonstrated interest in Reproductive Toxicology, Endocrine Toxicology, Neurotoxicology, Nutritional Toxicology, or Nanotoxicology. (Note: if the faculty member writes letters for more than one student, he/she must rank the students.)
  - e) A list of proposed courses to be taken during the next three years. This list must include Basic Toxicology, Systems Toxicology, and Ethics in Toxicology. At least one additional course from the list of toxicology core courses is highly recommended. In addition, Toxicology Scholars are required to register for Toxicology Seminar, held Fridays at noon, every semester during the award period and they must attend Toxicology Journal Club and participate in the Toxicology Open House.
  - f) A completed Toxicology Scholar Application Form (attached).

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## **Please note the Program Requirements:**

- In addition to their departmental requirements, all trainees will take Systems (CB594) Toxicology, and Ethics in Toxicology (CB552) and at least one additional course from the list of toxicology core courses is highly recommended, such as Basic Toxicology (ENVS 480).
- All trainees must register for and attend a weekly toxicology seminar series (CB596) and events, participate in Toxicology Open House and events, participate in the toxicology journal club, and receive training on ethics in toxicology.
- Toxicology Scholars will be required to present and discuss their research in the program and are strongly encouraged to present their research at national meetings.
- Preference will be given to those who are interested in pursuing a research career. Selection will be based on academic success, the relevance of proposed research to Program goals, and commitment to toxicology.
- All applications are welcome, and underrepresented minorities are especially encouraged to apply.

## **Applicants will be evaluated on several points:**

- 1) Strength of scholastic record
- 2) Career goal statement and its linkage to Reproductive Toxicology, Endocrine Toxicology, Neurotoxicology, Nutritional Toxicology, or Nanotoxicology.
- 3) Research plan and its linkage to Reproductive Toxicology, Endocrine Toxicology, Neurotoxicology, Nutritional Toxicology, or Nanotoxicology.
- 4) Recommendation by a faculty advisor in the Interdisciplinary Environmental Toxicology Program and two other reference letters.
- 5) Proposed coursework, its compliance to the program core courses, and its relevance to Reproductive Toxicology, Endocrine Toxicology, Neurotoxicology, Nutritional Toxicology, or Nanotoxicology.

A review committee of faculty from the Interdisciplinary Environmental Toxicology Program will review the applications. Faculty who are sponsors of applicants will not serve on the committee. Appointments generally begin on August 16, 2025. The award will consist of a stipend of approximately 25% time for 11 months (academic year and two summer months) and will be paid at 50% of the National Institute of Health (NIH) T32 predoc stipend rate over the 11-month appointment and includes a tuition and fee waiver. These stipends are not subject to individual departmental or college guidelines, and they do not contain obligations for accrued vacation and sick leave compensation. Where higher rates and vacation/sick leave obligations are in force, home department arrangements to cover such obligations will have to be made in advance of the award initiation. A maximum three-year funding commitment is implied at approximately 1/4 time for the appointment duration.

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The faculty sponsor of each Scholar is expected to make up the balance of the funding to match home department stipend levels for the appointed person from their own funding research efforts as a show of genuine participation in the program. The program is intended to serve as a recruitment mechanism to bring students into the field of toxicology and to stimulate faculty research in Reproductive Toxicology, Endocrine Toxicology, Neurotoxicology, Nutritional Toxicology, or Nanotoxicology

Admission to graduate study in the Interdisciplinary Toxicology Program implies certain curricular obligations. These include Systems Toxicology and Ethics in Toxicology. Registration in and participation in the Interdisciplinary Environmental Toxicology Seminar and all associated events, including the annual Open House and poster session, is also required. One additional toxicologically related course that has been approved by the Steering Committee is highly recommended. Program review will be conducted annually by the Steering Committee. Subsequent funding years beyond the first year are determined by a committee review of the student's progress and are subject to funding availability.

## **Completed applications should be submitted to:**

Synthia Lane, Program Coordinator  
Department of Comparative Biosciences, College of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
[sjlane@illinois.edu](mailto:sjlane@illinois.edu)  
217-300-6465

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**Interdisciplinary Environmental Toxicology Program  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

1. Complete Legal Name:

2. University Identification Number (UIN):

3. For which academic year are you applying?

4. Campus Address/UIUC Work Address:

5. Telephone Numbers

Office/work number:

Cell phone:

6. What degree are you seeking? M.S. / Ph.D.

7. Department in which you will receive your degree:

8. Your advisor/faculty mentor:

9. List Scholarships, prizes, honors, or other recognition (attach resume if necessary):

10. List the names, titles, institutions, and addresses of two additional people who will submit letters of reference in your behalf (not including your faculty sponsor).

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**Past Education:**

<b>School/University</b>	<b>Degree/s</b>	<b>Date Awarded/Expected (Date of Deposit where applicable)</b>	<b>Major/s &amp; Minor/s</b>	<b>Dates Attended (to/from)</b>	<b>GPA</b>