

## UVM Food Systems Research Center 2023 PhD Student Fellowships Call

The Food Systems Research Center is excited to request proposals for our 2023 class of PhD Fellows. Our call is open to both prospective/incoming PhD students and existing UVM PhD Candidates, who will be evaluated separately depending on their status. Fellows will be awarded \$31,500 per year in stipend funding and receive travel funding dependent upon their status. While funded students will be known as Food Systems Research Center Fellows, the funding will be implemented as Graduate Research Assistantships (GRAs),

**PhD Candidates** will be eligible for 1-year of funding to assist in the writing of their dissertations. Students who have already advanced to candidacy (i.e. passed their qualifying exam and no longer taking courses) as well as those who anticipate to be candidates by September 1, 2023 are eligible to apply in this category. Note that individuals must advance to candidacy by September 1, 2023 in order for the fellowship to be awarded. In addition to the stipend, PhD candidates will have up to \$500 for travel costs associated with their research. The FSRC anticipates funding **four** existing PhD candidates in 2023-2024 academic year. There is no limit on the number applications that a faculty advisor can support for existing PhD candidates.

**Prospective/incoming students** will be eligible for two years of funding with the potential for a third year of funding. The maximum amount of funding will be three years total. A third year will be considered if: 1. The student is in good academic standing; 2. The student or advisor have demonstrated attempts to seek additional external funding for the student (i.e. through external grant or fellowship applications); 3. The student has not received full additional internal or external funding to cover their stipend for their third year. If the student receives partial funding to cover this potential third year, the FSRC will provide partial funding to provide a stipend and benefits equal to the total allowed under this award.

In addition to the stipend, PhD candidates will have up to \$1,000 over the fellowship funding period to be used for travel costs associated with their research. The FSRC anticipates funding **three** prospective students in 2023-2024 academic year. Prospective students must be admitted to their program/college in order to receive the fellowship. Faculty advisors may apply to sponsor up to **two** prospective PhD students.

### *Tuition and Fees*

**The FSRC PhD Fellowship does NOT fund tuition for course credits, research credits or continuing registration credits; nor does it fund comprehensive fees for PhD candidates or prospective students.** The requisite GRA tuition scholarship of 9 credits per semester and 5 credits in the summer is charged to the **Responsibility Center housing the applicant's graduate program. Comprehensive fees** may also be paid by the Responsibility Center- or may be charged to the student, consistent with unit policy. The Dean of the Responsibility Center may require tuition contribution from

the **applicant's faculty advisor**. The Dean of the Responsibility Center housing the applicant's graduate program and the applicant's faculty advisor are required to fill out the **acknowledgement of tuition and fees coverage form** and include it with their letter of support.

### *Application Process*

Applications should be in a standard font, 11 point or larger. Margins should be at least 0.5".

### **Students interested should include the following materials in their applications:**

#### *Prospective student* statement of interest

- 1) A 2-page (max) statement of interest to include:
  - A description of their proposed PhD research with specific emphasis on relevance to food systems in Vermont and/or the Northeast.
  - The relevance of the proposed research to the Food Systems Research Center
  - A description of the student's preparedness for a PhD and why they will be successful in their program.

#### *Existing student* statement of interest:

- 1) A 2-page (max) statement of interest to include:
  - A description of their current PhD research with specific emphasis on relevance to food systems.
  - The connection of their work to local and/or regional food systems in Vermont and/or the Northeast.
  - The student's plan for completing their PhD.
  - The progress and successes made in their PhD to this point.

Additional materials required of existing and prospective students:

- 2) A CV and/or resume not to exceed 5 pages.
- 3) A one page (max) statement about how their food system project relates or contributes to issues of equity, inclusivity, and diversity.

Applicants should place their materials into a single PDF document and upload it to InfoReady. Applicants should also include the name and email of their faculty advisors when submitting their application.

Faculty advisors will be notified via an email requesting the following materials, which will be blind to the student:

- 1) A one page (max) letter of support from their advisor to address:

- The potential for the candidate’s research to contribute to the goals of the FSRC and Vermont/Northeast food systems.
- A research and training plan for the success of the applicant.
- A plan for how tuition and fees for the student will be covered.
- Plans for future funding applications for prospective students OR plans for helping the student complete their PhD if they are an existing student.

2) Letter of acknowledgement that the Dean’s Office of the College/School housing the student’s graduate program will cover tuition for the student, or that the tuition will be covered by the Faculty Advisor or Department, or another means specified. The source of payment for comprehensive fees must also be specified (and may be the student). Note that the stipend includes a fringe rate to provide the premium for UVM single student health insurance coverage.

Applications are due through InfoReady by **February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**. Please email ARS Research and Outreach Manager, Dr. Chris Skinner if you have any questions. All applications will be thoroughly reviewed by a panel of reviewers from across UVM. Final decision will be made by the FSRC team.

### FSRC Fellowship Scoring Rubric

Applicants will be evaluated based on the rubric below. Reviewers will also provide comments and/or a narrative assessment of each candidate with specific emphasis on the criteria below.

Category	4 (Exceptional)	3 (Good)	2 (Needs Improvement)	1 (Not Appropriate or Absent)
Alignment	Uses a food systems approach  Has strong relevance to Vermont/Northeast and is conducted in the region	Does not have a food systems focus; disciplinary in nature.  Relevant to Vermont/Northeast but not conducted in the region	No focus on Vermont/Northeast  No focus on food systems	No relevance to Vermont/Northeast  No focus on food systems or any food area
Research	<b>For incoming students:</b> Clear independent research proposal, understanding of a PhD, and their preparedness to be successful in a PhD  <b>For candidates:</b> Articulate a clear trajectory for completion of their	<b>For incoming students:</b> Vague research proposal, and/or understanding of a PhD, or successful PhD. Lack specifics.  <b>For candidates:</b> Articulate trajectory for completion and progress; Minimal	<b>For incoming students:</b> Weak research proposal, and/or understanding of a PhD, how they will be successful.  <b>For candidates:</b> Do not articulate a clear trajectory for completion and/or progress; Limited	<b>For incoming students:</b> Missing research proposal; applicants do not have understanding of a PhD and do not indicate how they will be successful.  <b>For candidates:</b> Do not detail trajectory to completion or progress; No evidence

	PhD.; Detail the progress they have made up to this point; Demonstrated success of scholarship evidenced through publications, presentations, grant applications, outreach, etc.	demonstrated success of scholarship.	or no success of scholarship.	of success of scholarship.
Education	<p><b>For incoming students:</b> Strong background and clear detail of how education and/or experience will enable them to be successful in a PhD program.</p> <p><b>For candidates:</b> Detail the relevant progress they have made in their PhD and how their progress is on a trajectory for success in their desired career.</p>	<p><b>For incoming students:</b> Strong educational and experience background, but do not adequately describe how this will enable them to be successful in a PhD program.</p> <p><b>For candidates:</b> Detail progress, but do not discuss a trajectory for success in their desired career.</p>	<p><b>For incoming students:</b> Limited educational and experience background; fail to link how this will enable them to be successful in a PhD program.</p> <p><b>For candidates:</b> Do not adequately detail progress, but do discuss a trajectory for success in their desired career.</p>	<p><b>For incoming students:</b> Limited/no education and experience; Do not detail how their educational/experience will enable them to be successful in a PhD.</p> <p><b>For candidates:</b> Applicants do not detail progress or a trajectory for success in their desired field.</p>
DEI	Thoughtful response on how their food systems research will address issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion with actionable items	Thoughtful response but does not include actionable items to how their project will address issues of DEI	Response is severely lacking in detail and actionable items	Response does not address how they will improve or address issues of DEI
Faculty Support	<p><b>For incoming students:</b> Clear plan for additional funding, including funding already secured or applications underway.</p> <p>Strong alignment between the faculty and student interests</p>	<p><b>For incoming students:</b> Clear plan for additional funding, but no funding secured or applications underway.</p> <p>Good alignment between the faculty and student interests</p>	<p><b>For incoming students:</b> No plan for additional funding.</p> <p>Limited aligned between the faculty and student interests</p> <p><b>For candidates:</b> Plan is not clear or not mentioned.</p>	Faculty support letter is incomplete or not present.

	<p><b>For candidates:</b> Clear plan for the student to complete their doctoral degree in a timely fashion with funding</p> <p>Strong alignment between the faculty and student interests</p>	<p><b>For candidates:</b> Plan for completion is lacking in some clarity</p> <p>Good alignment between the faculty and students interests</p>	<p>Limited aligned between the faculty and student interests</p>	
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