



WISCONSIN IDEA FELLOWSHIPS

WHAT IS WIF?

The Wisconsin Idea Fellowships support innovative projects designed collaboratively by UW-Madison undergraduate students, community partners (ie: nonprofits, municipalities, NGOs) and faculty to help address a community-identified need, locally or globally. International projects subject to requirements of University International Travel Committee waivers. On average, 5-9 projects are awarded funding each year, and projects can last for a summer, a semester or an entire academic year. More than 170 projects in 19 countries have been awarded fellowships since 1999.

288

288 UW-Madison students have been named Wisconsin Idea Fellows since 1999.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any UW-Madison undergrad who will hold junior or senior standing when project implementation begins. Projects may include multiple students. Students must remain enrolled undergrads throughout the entire project.

\$7k

Projects may be eligible for up to \$7,000.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Students are eligible to receive up to \$7,000 for group projects and up to \$5,000 for individual projects. The award is meant to allow students to implement their project. Students can use all of the funding for supplies and expenses to implement the project, or designate a portion of their award as a tuition scholarship. The amount students are able to receive and designate as scholarship varies based on the length of their project. All scholarship funds will be administered through the Bursar's Office. Check with the Financial Aid office to determine how this might impact your financial aid package. The Financial Aid Office's number is 608-262-3060.

"Being a WIF fellow allows you to represent the university and exhibit leadership, commitment and an attitude towards community betterment." — Tyler Klink, 2018-19 Wisconsin Idea Fellow

HOW TO APPLY

Applications open late fall 2019 and are due February 7, 2020. The application includes a project proposal, abstract, budget and letters of support from the faculty mentor and community partner. Decisions will be announced in March 2020 and awarded projects may begin as early as June.





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PAST PROJECT EXAMPLES



Service-Learning on a Lion Reintroduction Program

Akagera National Park, Rwanda — This project includes studying the effects lion reintroduction has on the park’s ecosystem, outreach and support for park visitors, as well as assist in local community efforts to minimize human-wildlife conflicts.



Providing an Accessible Art Education for Children

Madison, Wisconsin — This project focused on bringing art education to children in the Eagle Heights community at a time when they are still developing fine motor skills and learning how to express themselves in different ways.



Female Empowerment Through Environmental Sustainability

Perez Zeledon, Costa Rica — This project finds the intersection between gender inequality and environmental sustainability was the key to helping solve a complicated community problem across the world.

ACADEMIC CREDIT

Students awarded a Wisconsin Idea Fellowship will earn three academic credits by enrolling in an independent/ directed study, supervised research or senior thesis sometime during the implementation of the project.

PROJECT FUNDS

The Morgridge Center for Public Service will work with awardees’ departments to administer project funds. Students electing to designate part of their funds as scholarship will receive half prior to beginning their project and the final portion upon successful completion of their fellowship project. All scholarship funds will be administered through the Bursar’s Office.

FUND BREAKDOWN

PROJECT DURATION	INDIVIDUAL PROJECT	GROUP PROJECT
SUMMER	\$2,000	\$3,500
ONE SEMESTER	\$3,500	\$5,000
SUMMER & FALL	\$4,500	\$6,000
ACADEMIC YEAR	\$5,000	\$7,000

DEDICATED WIF FELLOWSHIPS

American Family Insurance Fellowship in Social Entrepreneurship

Supported generously by Madison-based American Family Insurance, this (WIF) fellowship will be awarded to a project that demonstrates unique approaches in addressing a specific complex social issue. Projects must be based in the US.



The Michael Thornton and Nora Medina Social Innovation Award

Supported by the generosity of Professor Michael Thornton and Nora Medina, this (WIF) fellowship will be awarded to a project that demonstrates support for ethnically diverse communities regarding affordable housing and or issues to help close the academic resource gap. Project must be based in the Madison/Dane County area.