

CEI Graduate Fellowship Scoring Rubric for Applicants

CEI is seeking applications that demonstrate outstanding potential for research, leadership, and service. Applications materials (short responses, CV, and letters of reference) will be reviewed and result in a score from 5 (highest) to 1 (lowest) across 4 scoring categories:

(1) research potential; (2) leadership and service in STEM; (3) relevance to CEI's state-mandated core research mission areas of solar energy, renewable energy storage, or smart grid systems; and (4) the potential for the fellowship to broadly yield transformative experiences.

Eligibility:

(1) current NSF, NDSEG, DOE, etc. fellowship holders are NOT eligible to receive CEI funding concurrent with fellowship funding, *BUT they may be designated as honorary CEI Fellows, OR they may choose to pause/reserve their fellowship for a year if permitted by the sponsor. Students should indicate if they are asking for "honorary" fellow status, or if they intend to pause their fellowship to receive a CEI fellowship if awarded. **Past fellows who have not yet received CEI funding are eligible and may apply.***

(2) Students must have begun their graduate study between June 1, 2022, and September 31, 2024, and should not be planning to graduate before Sept. 31, 2026. Incoming 1st-year students and Masters students are not eligible.

Scoring Rubric

Research Potential

- 5 Exceptional:** The application shows evidence of significant research products such as publication(s), patent(s), refereed proceeding(s), conference presentations, published code repositories, or other noteworthy research achievement(s) as appropriate for an applicant's field and career stage in graduate school at UW. This application includes evidence of student initiative and competitiveness such as applications for NSF, international, and similar fellowships, research symposium organization, collaboration leadership, etc.
- 4 Very Good:** This application is significantly strong when *compared to the UW graduate cohort*, has demonstrated evidence of achievements (as noted above) at UW that distinguishes them.
- 3 Above Average:** This application is above average compared to the UW graduate cohort but may not yet show strong evidence of exceptional research achievements (as noted above).
- 2 Average:** This application appears to be average compared to the UW graduate cohort but has evidence of promise for future research achievements (as noted above).
- 1 Below Average:** This application appears to be below average compared to the UW graduate cohort, i.e. CV or reference letters specifically raise concerns.

Leadership and Service

- 5 Exceptional:** This application indicates a high level of participation and leadership **while at UW** in service and extracurricular activities, either with direct application to STEM fields or evidence of potential to apply them to STEM. This application clearly shows how experiences motivate and prepare the applicant to achieve CEI goals of engaging and benefitting the broader public in STEM endeavors through activities such as outreach, technology translation and commercialization, and/or service for the public good.
- 4 Very Good:** This application is significantly strong when compared to the UW graduate cohort, has demonstrated leadership achievements at UW that motivate and prepare the applicant to participate in outreach, technology translation and commercialization, and/or service for the public good.
- 3 Above Average:** This application is above average compared to the UW graduate cohort in leadership and service but may not yet have strong evidence of being exceptional in leadership achievements.
- 2 Average:** This application appears to be average compared to the UW graduate cohort but has evidence of promise for future success in leadership and service achievements.
- 1 Below Average:** This application appears to be below average compared to the UW graduate cohort, i.e. CV or reference letters specifically raise concerns.

Relevance to CEI Research Mission

Note: The application should make explicit the connections between your research and clean energy. There may be some research that does not directly align with the current CEI mission or research focus but could represent emerging fields or areas related to clean energy.

- 5 Exceptional:** This application shows evidence of research that has clear implications for solar energy, renewable energy storage, energy systems, or advanced energy materials. This may include basic science applications, from algorithm development to the study of new semiconductors or physical processes with future applications to energy, as well as energy equity or policy in the context of CEI's major research thrusts.
- 4 Very Good:** The application shows evidence of research that is relevant to CEI but may be somewhat tangential.
- 3 Above Average:** The application shows evidence of research that is relevant to CEI, but there may be concerns about how this program might one day benefit solar energy, energy storage, energy systems, or energy equity or policy.
- 2 Average:** The application shows evidence of research that is relevant to energy, but not necessarily CEI. Projects do not explicitly articulate a link to energy (e.g. research of materials structures, algorithms, or measurements *without explicit connection to energy made by the applicant will be scored here*).
- 1 Below Average:** The application shows evidence of research that is not related to CEI. This project does not articulate relevance to energy at the level of energy materials, energy systems, energy devices, energy policy or energy equity.

Transformative Potential

This category reflects the potential for the applicant's participation to provide a transformative experience. Transformative is interpreted for the individual, their research team, and the CEI community writ large. For example, proposing research projects or extended activities that move the applicant's research group or career development *in an entirely new direction*, or that bring *entirely new directions* of scholarship into CEI are scored highly in this category. Being the first member from a given department or faculty lab could also be transformative in both dimensions. Inclusion of new scholarships, new collaborations between labs and institutions (including National Labs), new ideas, and new viewpoints would likely be more transformative than research areas that already have a large presence in CEI.

- 5 Exceptional:** Funding this individual's fellowship would likely be transformative for the individual, for their research group, and for CEI in multiple dimensions.
- 4 Very Good:** Funding this individual's fellowship would likely be transformative for at least two of the following: the individual, for their research group, and for CEI in multiple dimensions.
- 3 Above Average:** Funding this individual's fellowship would likely be transformative for at least one of the following: the individual, for their research group, and for CEI in multiple dimensions.
- 2 Average:** Funding this individual's fellowship would likely have limited potential to be transformative for either the individual, their research group, or CEI.
- 1 Below Average:** Funding this individual's fellowship is not seen to be transformative for either the individual, their research group, or CEI.