SUBJECT: ESPP 2012 DOCTORAL RECRUITING FELLOWSHIPS

To: Deans and Directors, Department Chairs, Faculty

FROM: Jinhua Zhao, Director, Environmental Science and Policy Program

The Environmental Science and Policy Program (ESPP) annually offers multiple Doctoral Recruiting Fellowships for students who will matriculate in the next fall semester. The goal of these fellowships is to attract the strongest possible cohort of students to pursue doctoral education focused on the environment. Each fellowship provides $30,000 for a year of support. (Note that this has been revised from the previous two-year award.) Each fellowship recipient is also eligible to receive one $5-6,000 “top-off” or augmentation to a future research assistantship when the student works on a research project supported by external grants.

Students who are selected will complete the ESPP Doctoral Specialization (four interdisciplinary requirements) in addition to their departmental coursework.

We encourage you to nominate students, by January 31, 2012. Students MUST be nominated by their intended home departments. Departments may submit up to two nominations, although only one student can be selected from each department. Students may not apply directly for these fellowships but must work with their intended home departments to apply for ESPP Doctoral Recruiting Fellowships.

AMOUNT: $30,000 per award. Five awards will be offered this year.

CO-SUPPORT REQUIREMENT: To make the fellowships as attractive as possible, each home department or program is required to provide three years of funding to match the support provided by ESPP, allowing the department or program to offer the student a four-year funding package. The funds for these three years of matching support can come from any source as long as it allows commitment to a four-year package of support. Departments and programs that link admissions to Master’s degrees with doctoral admission should include a description of their procedures with the application materials.

ELIGIBILITY: The intent of the fellowships is to recruit new doctoral students to MSU, so only students new to the PhD program (matriculating in fall 2012) are eligible. Students must apply to and be accepted by a doctoral program at MSU to be considered for these fellowships. Recipients of these fellowships MUST participate in the ESPP Doctoral Specialization. This includes successfully completing the four requirements outlined as a part of the specialization. Normally, courses are taken within the first two years of a student’s Ph.D. program. International students are eligible for these fellowships.

MSU is an affirmative action, equal-opportunity institution.
APPLICATION: Submit application materials electronically via email (to espp@msu.edu). **Documents should be submitted as a single PDF (preferred) or Word document whenever possible.** Submission of these documents automatically meets the application requirements of the ESPP Doctoral Specialization.

The application includes:
- Completed nomination form (attached to this call)
- Letter from intended department or program indicating acceptance into the graduate program, nomination for ESPP fellowship, and a funding commitment match (this should be from the department chairperson or program director).
- A copy of the student’s MSU application packet. This includes:
  - Copy of the MSU online application form including the statement of purpose
  - Copies of all undergraduate and graduate transcripts
  - GRE scores
  - Three letters of recommendation
  - TOEFL scores (international students only)
- Cover letter and essay from student.
  - Student must submit a cover letter (1 page maximum) indicating his/her interest in being considered for an ESPP Recruiting Fellowship.
  - Student must clearly and concisely indicate, in an essay (3 page maximum, double spaced, 12 point font),
    - how his/her interests include performing interdisciplinary research in social AND biogeophysical aspects of environmental science and policy, and
    - how his/her academic background and previous professional and practical experiences predisposes him/her to interdisciplinary work or allows him/her to be positioned to become more interdisciplinary upon arrival at MSU, and
    - any other aspect of his/her background that makes him/her uniquely suited to make contributions to the ESPP.
- Curriculum vitae

DEADLINE: Copies of application materials must be received by ESPP no later than January 31, 2012. Applications received after this date will not be considered. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications will only be considered at this time (not off-cycle). Send materials to:
**espp@msu.edu**  
**Subject Line: ESP RF12**

We will send you a note confirming receipt of the application; if you do not hear from us, please contact us again.

Departments and programs will be notified of the fellowship awards no later than the beginning of March. Questions can be directed to espp@msu.edu or jzhao@msu.edu or 517-432-8296.

**SELECTION PROCESS:** An ESPP fellowship committee will make recommendations to the Director of ESPP based on the criteria listed in the application process.
Nomination Form
Doctoral Recruiting Fellowship
Environmental Science and Policy

Name:_________________________________________ PID: _______________________

Email:______________________________ Phone Number:_______________________

Home Mailing Address:_____________________________________________

Department/School:_____________________________________________________

Major Professor:_____________________________________________________

Signature of Department Chairperson