

INSTITUTE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

AFFILIATES PROGRAM

The Institute on the Environment Affiliates Program connects scholars and professionals of all career stages, fostering collaborative work that has a positive impact on the environment and sustainability. Affiliates are central to our IonE community, are part of changing the way the university conducts scholarship, and create tangible impact in the wider world. Four categories of affiliation currently exist at IonE, including cohort-based programs for faculty development and sustainability pedagogy. Affiliates come from across the five campuses of the University of Minnesota, as well as external organizations that are driving innovation in sustainability.

About

IonE is an interdisciplinary hub for the statewide University of Minnesota system. We are built to facilitate inter-departmental and inter-campus collaboration, as well as create partnerships with the broader world. Within our ranks are engineers, natural scientists, economists and social scientists, humanities scholars, artists, and educators. All are working together to discover and advance solutions to environmental challenges – to bring about a future where people and planet prosper together.

IonE seeks to support its Affiliates, who in turn enrich and support the Institute. Affiliates participate in IonE events and interact with nationwide leaders in sustainability scholarship and action. They also gather each year at the IonE Annual Meeting, the institute's flagship event for intellectual cross-pollination.

Dates & Deadlines

Calls for new Affiliates happen annually. Applications are due in September of each year, with announcement of the new class in late October/early November.

Benefits and Participation

In addition to program-specific benefits and responsibilities,
all IonE Affiliates share the following:

Benefits of Affiliation

- Membership in the IonE community, including the right to list affiliation on a CV and on publications or other work products
- Opportunities to interact with like-minded environmental scholars and professionals – to share ideas and form new interdisciplinary teams
- Invitations to activities, speakers, and events designed specifically for Affiliates, in addition to whole-community events such as the Annual Meeting
- Access to IonE professional development programs and mentorship and training activities
- Access to flexible working and meeting space in the Learning and Environmental Sciences building on the St. Paul campus (UMTC)
- Event consultation and access to IonE events spaces (by reservation, pending availability) with little or no charge (fees apply to externally-sponsored events)
- Eligibility for IonE funded grants and contracts*
- Access to IonE consultation on grant development and philanthropic funding strategies
- Recognition upon selection as an IonE Affiliate, including a head shot and public announcement on the IonE website
- Opportunities to be featured in IonE communications channels, including e-newsletters, social media platforms, and other storytelling venues

Community Participation

- Attendance at Affiliates salons, Fellows' dinners and/or IonE Associates mixers, and other IonE events*
- Attendance at IonE's Annual Meeting
- Occasional service on IonE committees to advance and improve IonE initiatives and activities
- Sharing feedback and ideas about IonE's direction and function via the annual IonE Affiliates survey and with the Faculty Leadership Council
- Making a commitment to share updates on projects, grants, and other newsworthy information with IonE, especially when those activities draw upon IonE resources or expertise
- Representing IonE in a way that upholds its core values
- Promoting IonE education and leadership opportunities to students – and supporting student involvement in these activities
- Including IonE staff, programs, and operational capabilities on external grants when appropriate, to help support IonE financially
- To include IonE designation (e.g., "IonE Fellow") on professional web page, email signature, and, when appropriate, journal publications
- To serve as an ambassador for IonE to both university leadership and external partners, embodying the institute's mission to build a future where people and planet prosper together

**Applies only to Affiliates eligible to be a PI at the University of Minnesota.*

**Fall semester events are typically announced in August; spring semester events are announced in early January.*

1 Fellows

Who are IonE Fellows?

Fellows are established in their career and have demonstrated excellence in one or more disciplines related to environmental protection or sustainability. They also have a proven history of applying their research or expertise to real-world challenges, helping those outside the university understand and solve environmental problems. Fellows are expected to have a significant publication record or equivalent demonstration of expertise. While there is no fixed number, there should be a steady track record of professional accomplishments.

Fellows are often tenured faculty at the University of Minnesota, but affiliation is not restricted to this status. Fellows may also be individuals from external organizations who meet a similar professional standard; pre-tenured faculty who have served previously as IonE Associates; or non tenure-track academics, including scientific staff, who have a position of similar rank to tenure.

What Fellows do:

- Fellows are active in the IonE community as described in “Benefits and Participation”
- Fellows engage with the IonE community in pursuit of IonE strategic initiatives, contributing expertise to specific and timely goals that the community is working toward
- Fellows may be asked and have opportunities to mentor IonE Associates; they also speak at workshops and/or seminars, and sometimes serve on committees within IonE
- IonE provides avenues for Fellows to pursue new and existing collaborations, with other Fellows, Associates, and IonE researchers and students
- Fellows complete an annual survey reflecting their participation in the IonE community, and the Faculty Leadership Council reappoints IonE Fellows based on this feedback

How to Apply:

- Applications are due annually in mid-September (2018: September 17)
- Applications should be submitted via email to ioneaffiliates@umn.edu
- Application review is conducted by the Faculty Leadership Council with suggestions put forth to the Director of IonE for final approval

Applications must include:

- Letter of endorsement (nomination) from a current IonE Fellow
- Letter from the nominee explaining the relevance of their work to IonE and how they will benefit from membership in the IonE community
- CV highlighting the qualifications described above

2 Associates

Who are IonE Associates?

IonE Associates are early-career researchers and instructors at the University of Minnesota who are motivated to develop engaged, interdisciplinary careers in environmental scholarship. Part of the larger IonE community, IonE Associates form an annual cohort of 10-15 individuals representing a mixture of disciplines, perspectives, objectives, and backgrounds – and they are paired with IonE Fellows for one-on-one mentorship. Through their affiliation, IonE Associates acquire the skills and connections to accelerate their academic careers and broaden their impact in the world. At the end of the two-year cohort, Associates can retain their affiliation if they remain active in the IonE community; they can also move to the Fellows category through the process described on the previous page.

What Associates do:

- Engage in the IonE community as described in “Benefits and Participation”
- Each cohort member attends workshops (including a pair of two-day retreats), completes individual assessments to strengthen their leadership styles, and networks with leaders from the university and greater community in programming specific to IonE Associates

How to Apply:

- Applications are due annually in mid-September (2018: September 17)
- Applications should be submitted via email to ioneaffiliates@umn.edu
- Application review is conducted by the Faculty Leadership Council who will advance suggestions to the Director of IonE for final approval

Applications must include:

- Nomination letter from a dean or department chair (or similar supervisory role)
- Letter of support (nomination) from a current IonE Fellow
- CV highlighting the qualifications described above
- Letter from the nominee describing their professional aspirations and goals for their time as an IonE Associate, including:
 - Why are you applying to participate in the IonE Associates Program?
 - What specific kinds of impact do you wish to have in terms of your research and scholarship?
 - How will your participation in the program benefit the University of Minnesota, as well as other communities?

3 Educators

Who are IonE Educators?

IonE Educators are tenure-track faculty and instructional staff, including adjunct faculty, who have a special interest in effective pedagogy and curriculum development. As a group, IonE Educators are regularly engaged in formal and informal teaching.

Each year, up to five new IonE Educators are selected to create a 15-month cohort to incubate and encourage innovative teaching in sustainability and environmental education. (IonE Educators may or may not already be an IonE Fellow or Associate.) As a cohort and as individuals, IonE Educators advance best practices and disseminate those innovations to the broader university community. The cohort meets throughout their 15-month fellowship term to learn from each other.

What Educators do:

- Engage in the IonE community as described in “Benefits and Participation”
- During the 15-month fellowship period (beginning annually in December), IonE Educators pursue individual projects aimed at improved existing courses or developing new courses and educational experiences. Projects may also address education for the general public or K-12 students. All projects will champion the need for diverse perspectives in solving complex sustainability challenges. Project work is supported by a shared graduate assistant and through partnership with the Center for Educational Innovation.
- During their fellowship term, IonE Educators also present on an aspect of sustainability education to the broader IonE community; participate in the annual Sustainability Education Summit (typically in January); and help shape the summit for the following academic year

How to apply:

- Applications are due annually in mid-September (2018: September 17)
- Applications should be submitted via email to ioneaffiliates@umn.edu
- Application review is conducted by the Faculty Leadership Council with suggestions for approval put forth by the Director of IonE

Applications must include:

- Letter of support from a department chair, dean, or associate dean (or similar supervisory role). (If none of these is available, please reach out to ioneaffiliates@umn.edu prior to application deadline to find out what else could be submitted in place of this letter.)
- Letter from the nominee describing their environmental or sustainability education experiences and goals as well as a description of their proposed project.
- CV highlighting the qualifications described above

4 Visiting Scholars

Who are IonE Visiting Scholars?

The Visiting Scholars program is intended to expand the scope of the IonE community to include external visitors, who would benefit from affiliation with a university unit and enrich our community. Visiting Scholars could be faculty from other universities on sabbatical, partners at non-university organizations seeking connection to and interaction with sustainability scholars, or relatively senior members of the University of Minnesota community with a term appointment. Visiting Scholars can be U.S. or foreign nationals.

What Visiting Scholars do:

- Participate in the IonE community as described in “Benefits and Participation”
- Visiting Scholars are expected to be in residence full or part-time for at least three months and spend a significant portion of their residence in IonE space
- IonE Visiting Scholars should aim to provide a meaningful connection between one or more external institutions — including academia, the government, not-for-profit institutions, and corporations — and the University of Minnesota

How to apply:

- Applications can be submitted by any member of a university community or another organization/institution with an interest in scholarship or original inquiry
- Applications for Visiting Scholars are accepted by the IonE Director (hellmann@umn.edu) at any time, with review and decision within three months of receipt
- Application review is conducted by the Faculty Leadership Council with suggestions for approval put forth by the Director of IonE

Applications must include:

- A cover letter explaining the relevance of the proposed visit to IonE and the activities to be undertaken during residency, as well as how the applicant will benefit from membership in the IonE community
- CV highlighting the qualifications described above

Contacts

Applications & Questions

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Driven to DiscoverSM