

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 the IonE community; are part of changing the way the university conducts scholarship; and, through collaboration, 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

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 advance solutions to environmental challenges – to bring about a future where people and planet prosper together. IonE works to support its affiliates, who in turn enrich and support the Institute. Affiliates participate in IonE events and gatherings, interact with nationwide leaders in sustainability scholarship and action. They also gather at IonE's annual meeting, the Institute's flagship event for intellectual cross-pollination.

2021 Dates & Deadlines

Applications for 2021, including letters of nomination, are due **March 31, 2021**.

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 fellow environmental scholars and professionals – to share ideas and form new interdisciplinary collaborations
 - Invitations to activities, speakers, and events designed for affiliates, in addition to community-wide events such as the annual meeting
 - Access to IonE professional development programs, mentorship, and training activities
 - Access to working and meeting space in the Learning and Environmental Sciences (LES) building on the Twin Cities campus in St. Paul
 - Use of IonE event spaces during LES building hours, free of charge (reservation required, pending availability)
 - Eligibility for IonE funded grants and contracts*
*See specific RFPs (requests for proposals) for terms and conditions. In some cases, principal investigators must be current UMN employees.
 - 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
- Completing the annual survey – sharing feedback and ideas about IonE via this channel, as well as through the Faculty Leadership Council
 - Sharing updates on projects, grants, and other newsworthy activities with IonE, especially when those activities draw upon IonE resources or expertise
 - Noting your IonE affiliation when communicating with others about newsworthy activities, as appropriate and especially when those activities have drawn upon IonE resources, including funding
 - Representing IonE in a way that upholds its core values
 - Promoting IonE education and leadership opportunities to students as appropriate – 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 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

Forms of Participation

- Attending IonE Affiliate salons, cohort-specific programming, and other IonE events
- Attending IonE's annual meeting (September)
- Occasionally serving on IonE committees to advance and improve IonE initiatives and activities

Norms and Conduct

IonE promotes a culture of responsibility and compliance with the norms and standards of the University of Minnesota. Affiliates who are University employees are [bound by University policies](#) including sexual harassment, acceptable use of technology, a drug free university, academic misconduct, and other such regulations. We expect non-University affiliates, although not bound by employment, to also abide by these policies, and all affiliates should disclose potential conflicts of interest relating to the work of the Institute. In addition, we expect IonE affiliates to display a high degree of collegiality and collaboration in their activities and behavior. All people associated with the Institute should demonstrate integrity; a commitment to open inquiry and dialogue; and a respect for people of diverse cultural and intellectual backgrounds. Not living up to these standards could result in termination of Institute affiliation.

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 and helping those outside of academia 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 on **March 31, 2021**.

Submit your materials, including letters, *as a single email* to ioneaffiliates@umn.edu.

Applications must include the following three components (preferably as a single PDF):

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

Applicants are responsible for collecting their letter of nomination and submitting it as part of the application. Incomplete applications will not be considered for affiliation. Application review is conducted by the Faculty Leadership Council with suggestions put forth to the Director of IonE for final approval.

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 on **March 31, 2021**.

Submit your materials, including letters, *as a single email* to ioneaffiliates@umn.edu.

Applications must include the following *four* components (preferably as a single PDF):

- 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?
- Nomination letter from a dean or department chair (or similar supervisory role)
- A second letter of endorsement/support from a current IonE Fellow

Applicants are responsible for collecting their letters of nomination and submitting them as part of the application via email. Incomplete applications will not be considered for affiliation. Application review is conducted by the Faculty Leadership Council with suggestions put forth to the Director of IonE for final approval.

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, IonE Educators pursue individual projects aimed at improving 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 on **March 31, 2021**.

Submit your materials, including letters, *as a single email* to ioneaffiliates@umn.edu.

Applications must include the following *three* components (preferably as a single PDF):

- CV highlighting the qualifications described above
- A letter from the applicant describing their environmental or sustainability education experiences and goals as well as a description of their proposed project
- A letter of support/nomination 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.)

Applicants are responsible for collecting their letter of nomination and submitting it as part of the application. Incomplete applications will not be considered for affiliation. Application review is conducted by the Faculty Leadership Council with suggestions put forth to the Director of IonE for final approval.

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 may be submitted by any member of a university community or another organization/institution with an interest in scholarship or original inquiry
- The deadline is rolling: 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

Visiting Scholar 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

ioneaffiliates@umn.edu

Jessica Hellmann | Director
Institute on the Environment

hellmann@umn.edu

environment.umn.edu

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ENVIRONMENT

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Driven to DiscoverSM