Graduate & Professional Scholarly Excellence in Equity and Diversity (SEED) Awards

The Graduate and Professional Scholarly Excellence in Equity and Diversity (SEED) Awards honor graduate and professional students at the University of Minnesota whose research and scholarly interest are focused on issues of equity, diversity, and/or social justice, and who demonstrate outstanding creativity, innovation, and potential for scholarly and/or professional excellence in their discipline or field. In addition, SEED awardees will demonstrate experience with or commitment to serving or working with underserved, underrepresented or marginalized populations.

Up to two graduate and professional SEED Awards with a value of $2,000 each will be awarded in 2016. The SEED Awards will be presented and the 2016 recipients will be honored at the 2016 University of Minnesota Equity and Diversity Breakfast.

Students eligible for the Graduate and Professional SEED Award include:

* U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents whose background and/or identities are underrepresented at the University of Minnesota
* Students enrolled in graduate or professional degree programs at the University of Minnesota
* Students who will not have completed all degree requirements before December 2016

Applicants are asked to submit:

1. The SEED Award graduate application; this includes a 500-word abstract of their current research, thesis or capstone experience and a narrative statement discussing how your academic and personal experiences at the University of Minnesota have contributed to your thinking about issues of equity, diversity, and social justice. Give examples of your experiences or involvement with equity, diversity, and or social justice

2. A current curriculum vitae;

3. Two letters of recommendation
   * One letter preferably from your adviser or a member of your examining committee who can speak of your academic involvement with issues directly or tangentially related to equity, diversity, or social justice
   * One letter from a colleague or former student who can attest to your manifestation of a commitment to diversity, equity, and or social justice

Areas of Evaluation for the SEED Award:

Graduate students who have demonstrated impressive achievement and leadership in at least one of the following areas:

**Academic performance and engagement with the chosen field of study.**
* The field of study need not be in the area of equity, diversity, ethnic studies, GLBT studies, etc., but the research of scholarly interests must focus on issues related to diversity and equity.

**Community outreach and activism**
* Students should demonstrate an exceptional commitment to and engagement with a particular issue of social justice, community, and/or community organization. Such community activism can take place on or off any of the University of Minnesota's campuses. In addition, all SEED award recipients will demonstrate a deep understanding of and commitment to issues of equity, diversity, and social justice through their academic work and/or service to the community.

Graduate and professional SEED Award applications are due Friday, April 1, 2016, by 4:30 p.m. Email materials as attachments to odge@umn.edu, to the attention of Patricia Jones Whyte. Information on the SEED Award can be found at: https://diversity.umn.edu/gradeducation/GradSEED