



**BABBITT CENTER**  
FOR LAND AND WATER POLICY

*A Center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy*

## **BABBITT CENTER DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

**Deadline for receipt of [online application](#) and supporting materials:**

**March 1 annually**

*Dissertation Fellowship awards will be announced approximately two months after deadline*

The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy's Dissertation Fellowship Program invites applications from doctoral students whose project proposals have been approved by their committee and are conducting research in fields that address the Babbitt Center's primary interest areas in improving the integration of land and water management, as well as related topics (p. 7). The Babbitt Center is a center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, an independent, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to help solve global economic, social, and environmental challenges to improve the quality of life through creative approaches to the use, taxation, and stewardship of land. This Fellowship Program provides an important link between Lincoln Institute's educational mission and its research objectives by supporting scholars early in their careers.

We welcome Fellowship applications on the following topics:

- Exploration and explanation of disconnects — and opportunities for better integration — between land and water planning, law, policy, management, and governance
- Social and environmental impacts of green infrastructure in arid and semiarid urban areas
- How communities assess, plan for, and mitigate wildfires and post-fire flooding
- Measuring the effectiveness of planning practices for sustainable and integrated land and water use in urban areas
- Multi-level / multi-scalar governance and institutional design for land and water resources
- The future of agricultural land and water, e.g., ag to urban water transfer mechanisms, fallowing programs, drought mitigation, etc.
- Water efficiency and conservation in both agricultural and urban contexts
- Linked land and water dimensions of climate change drivers, impacts, and responses
- Water sustainability, vulnerability, adaptation, and resilience at multiple scales
- Policy and management for headwaters areas in U.S. public lands
- Additional topics not listed above that advance the integration of land use and water management

Additionally, we are particularly interested in research projects with strong potential to produce:

- Engagement and partnerships with decision-makers, civil society groups, and other stakeholders, especially disadvantaged and historically marginalized communities
- Technology innovation, including:
  - Scenario planning and decision support tools
  - Open data and the development of new geospatial data sets
  - Advances in mapping and geospatial analysis methods to support management and policy decision-making



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Your Babbitt Center Dissertation Fellowship application should address how your research will build on and contribute to the concerns of the Babbitt Center (p. 6), as well as the policy impacts of your research. This application document includes a frequently asked questions section that offers responses to common questions about the dissertation fellowship proposal process.

## **APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

*Please read the instructions carefully. All applications must be submitted in English.*

The Babbitt Center Dissertation Fellowships of \$10,000 support dissertation research projects. Applications must include all the items listed below.

- **Completion of Online Application**
  - **Applicant Information**
  - **Project Information**
  - **Project Summary**
  - **Project Abstract**
  - **Project Description** (upload a summary of your dissertation—no longer than five pages)
  - **Curriculum Vitae and Narrative Biography** (upload a CV, not to exceed four pages, and enter a short narrative biography of 100-125 words.)
- **Letter of Support from dissertation advisor**
  - Letter of support to be emailed directly by dissertation advisor to [babbittfellowships@lincolninst.edu](mailto:babbittfellowships@lincolninst.edu). Letter of support only can be accepted in PDF format or as a Microsoft Word document. Please ask your advisor to put your last name followed by your first name in the subject line.

**The online application must be completed, and your letter of support received via email by 11:59 p.m. (AZ time) on March 1 to be considered in that review cycle.**

The Babbitt Center will email an acknowledgment within ten days after your application has been received.

Download the Application Guidelines, Evaluation Criteria, and FAQs from the Lincoln Institute website or email to [babbittfellowships@lincolninst.edu](mailto:babbittfellowships@lincolninst.edu) to request an electronic copy of any of these documents.

Format documents for upload in Microsoft Word with margins for copying on 8.5 x 11-inch (letter-size) paper.



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**Awards will be announced (via email to the applicant)  
approximately two months after the application deadline.**

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## **Sample of Online Babbitt Center Dissertation Fellowship Application**

### **APPLICANT INFORMATION**

*Demographic questions are optional*

#### **APPLICANT**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

University \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Address (home or office) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

### **PROJECT INFORMATION**

**TITLE OF PROJECT:**

**PROJECT DURATION:** Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ End Date \_\_\_\_\_

**ADVISOR'S NAME AND EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **FORMAL PROPOSAL DEFENSE**

- My university does not require a formal proposal defense.
- My university requires a formal proposal defense, but I have not yet completed it.
- My university requires a formal proposal defense, and I have completed it.



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**PROGRESS TOWARD DEGREE:** (Mark all that apply. Your answer is for information purposes only and will not impact our evaluation of your application.)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proposal approved by dissertation committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwork / data collection in progress |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced to candidacy (ABD)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwork / data collection completed   |

**HOW WILL YOU USE THE AWARD?**

*Not to exceed 300 words.*

**OTHER FUNDING:**

*Please list the sources of research funding that you have already received in the table below.*

<b>Award title #1</b>	
Amount	
Duration	
Funder	
Purpose of funds	
<b>Award title #2</b>	
Amount	
Duration	
Funder	
Purpose of funds	

**FUNDING GAPS:**

*Briefly describe the gap, if any, between funds in hand and additional funds needed to complete the research project.*



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**PROJECT SUMMARY**

**ENTER PROJECT SUMMARY:**

*The project summary should state the objectives, methods, the significance of the research, and how it would contribute to the concerns of the Babbitt Center. Not to exceed 300 words.*

**PROJECT ABSTRACT**

**ENTER PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

*This abstract should state clearly the key purpose and goals of the project. If your project is selected for funding, this information will be used in Lincoln Institute catalogs and newsletters and on the Lincoln website to announce your fellowship award. Not to exceed 100 words.*

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**UPLOAD PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

*Not to exceed five pages; optional two additional pages for references and bibliography. Upload a Word document.*

- Clearly state the purpose and objectives of the thesis, highlighting the main research question to be addressed. Theses without an identifiable and coherent research question will not be considered.
- Specify the relevance of the research topic and question to the Babbitt Center's key themes, priorities and issue(s) listed in the [Application Guidelines](#). If the alignment of the research topic and Babbitt Center's priority issues is not very strong, explain how the project's issue focus could be a contribution to the Lincoln Institute's research portfolio.
- Highlight and document the contribution your thesis project is likely to make to the literature and policy debates on your topic.
- Provide the conceptual framework that informs the thesis. List and discuss a maximum of three key words that help situate the thesis clearly and easily within the relevant academic and policy literature.
- Present clearly the analytical methods (research design) to be used and their relationship to the conceptual framework adopted for the research.
- Specify sources of empirical data, assurance of access to the data, data collection strategy when warranted, and proposed uses of data to generate and support desired results.
- Indicate how coursework and prior research experience will help to analyze the proposed topic.
- Identify and explain the expected outcome(s) of the research and its relevance for policy and knowledge production. What results are expected, why would they be relevant, and how would they be disseminated and used?



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**CURRICULUM VITAE AND SHORT BIOGRAPHY**

**UPLOAD CURRICULUM VITAE:**

*Not to exceed 4 pages; Word document.*

**ENTER A SHORT NARRATIVE BIOGRAPHY:**

*In sentence format, not bullet points. Not to exceed 100-125 words.*

How did you learn about the Lincoln Institute's Babbitt Center Dissertation Fellowship program?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Land Lines</i> magazine      | <input type="checkbox"/> Colleague                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln Institute Web site      | <input type="checkbox"/> Advisor or School/Department |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Babbitt Center Research Network | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                  |

Have you applied for a Lincoln Institute Dissertation Fellowship in the past?  Yes  No

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***About the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy and Lincoln Institute of Land Policy***

The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, a center of the [Lincoln Institute of Land Policy](#), established in 2017, seeks to advance the integration of land and water management to meet the current and future water needs of Colorado River Basin communities, economies, and the environment. The Babbitt Center develops tools and best practices to guide decisions through research, training, and partnerships for sustainable management of land and water resources in the Basin and beyond.

The Babbitt Center's work focuses on the following areas:

- Research
  - Establish and evaluate best practices for linking land and water management
  - Develop indicators for tracking conditions throughout the Colorado River Basin
- Technology Innovation
  - Advance mapping and data collection and evaluation to support management and policy
  - Advance development and adoption of adaptive management approaches, including scenario planning, to address connected land and water management challenges
- Partnerships
  - Develop and improve technical assistance efforts
  - Evaluate and advance partnerships to advance Babbitt Center objectives
- Education & Training
  - Develop and evaluate professional training to further Babbitt Center objectives
  - Improve mechanisms for identification and dissemination of best practices
  - Advance mechanisms for outreach to elected officials, practitioners and the public

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy seeks to improve quality of life through the effective use, taxation, and stewardship of land. A nonprofit private operating foundation whose origins date to 1946, the Lincoln Institute researches and recommends creative approaches to land as a solution to economic, social, and environmental challenges. Through education, training, publications, and events, we integrate theory and practice to inform public policy decisions worldwide.

*The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy is an equal opportunity institution.*

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## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

### **for Babbitt Center Dissertation Fellowships**

Applications will be judged based on these five equally weighted criteria.

**A. Qualifications of applicant**

Based on the curriculum vitae and letter of recommendation, how qualified is the applicant to conduct the proposed activities?

**B. Relevance of the project to the Babbitt Center's mission.**

How strongly and directly does the research address important linkages (or disconnects) between land and water resource policy and management, broadly construed?

**C. Public impact**

How strong is the potential for the project to be beneficial to public policy, management, governance, community support and outreach, education, or to have some other positive public impact?

**D. Broader relevance**

How likely is this research to generate results that are generalizable, applicable, and/or instructive to other contexts within the Colorado River Basin or other arid regions?

**E. Anticipated impact of funding on the project**

- a. What is the applicant's degree of financial need? What is the gap between existing funds and additional funds needed to complete the project?
- b. How are the Dissertation Fellowship funds likely to be used?



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## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **regarding Babbitt Center Dissertation Fellowships**

- Will my progress towards my degree impact my evaluation? *No, as long as you meet the minimum criterion of having a dissertation research project proposal approved by your committee, your stage of progress towards your degree is for information purposes only and will not affect our assessment of your application.*
- Do I need to be a U.S. citizen to apply? *No.*
- Do I need to be registered in a U.S. university to apply? *Currently we are accepting applications from students registered at universities in the U.S. and Mexico.*
- Must the dissertation be restricted to cases in the Colorado River Basin? *Yes, the research must be focused on addressing issues within the Colorado River Basin, including areas dependent on Colorado River water that may be outside the hydrologic basin. Although priority will be given to research focused in the Colorado River Basin, research needn't be limited to only the Colorado River or Colorado River water.*
- Do you fund students working on their Master's thesis or other professional degrees? *We do not fund master's thesis projects. For students pursuing a law degree or professional doctorate degree that does not require a research dissertation, we will consider supporting significant research or professional doctoral projects if they are similar in scope to a doctoral dissertation.*
- Can I apply if I have a full-time job while I am completing my Ph.D.? *Yes, but all applicants must be full-time students.*
- How many fellowships will you grant? *Up to five fellowships of \$10,000 each per calendar year.*
- Should the entire proposal be single- or double-spaced? *Single-spaced.*
- Is there a desired format to follow when composing the five-page project description? *No.*
- How detailed should the five-page project description be? *Whatever best conveys the goals, intellectual merit, and design of the research, and to the extent possible addresses evaluation criteria B, C, and D in the application guidelines.*
- Should the five-page project description include a budget? *No.*
- Can I include more pages for a bibliography and references? *Yes, you may add up to two pages of references pertaining to your project description. They will not count against the five-page limit for the project description.*
- Must all submissions be electronic? *Yes. Please submit your [application online](#).*
- Must all attachments to the online application be in Microsoft Word? *Yes. We will not accept other formats, such as PDF files. Only letters of support from advisors may be submitted in PDF format.*

- What is the format for the letter of support from my advisor? *The letter must be on university letterhead and signed by your advisor (electronic signatures are acceptable), scanned, and emailed by him or her as a PDF, JPEG or TIFF attachment, by 11:59 PM on the date of the application deadline, to [babbittfellowships@lincolninst.edu](mailto:babbittfellowships@lincolninst.edu), with your last name followed by your first name in the subject line. Do not mail a hard copy.*
- Must I also mail a hard copy of the proposal? *No.*
- Can I make changes to a section of my proposal after having sent it in? *Only if you do so before the deadline for submission of proposals and only if you send a complete revised online application that will replace the original one. Isolated section changes will not be considered.*
- Does the proposal deadline refer to the sending date or the date of receipt of the email by the Institute? *Date of receipt by the Babbitt Center.*
- Will you acknowledge receipt of my application? *Yes, all applicants receive an immediate, automated confirmation of receipt of the online application. Within two weeks of receipt, applicants will also receive email notification that their application is complete (advisor letter of support has been received) and is scheduled for review.*
- When will I know whether my dissertation has been selected for funding or not? *We will notify all applicants approximately two months after the application deadline.*
- Can I get feedback on the substance of my proposal if it is not selected? *The Babbitt Center internal review committee typically does not offer comments regarding the content of proposals that are not selected for funding. In cases where proposals are sent out for external peer review, we may transmit the reviewer's anonymous comments to the applicant all or in part depending on the wishes of the reviewer.*

**If you have other questions regarding the Application Guidelines for Dissertation Proposals, please send an email to [babbittfellowships@lincolninst.edu](mailto:babbittfellowships@lincolninst.edu).**