



The Schurch Thomson Graduate Research Excellence Award

Description

The Schurch Thomson Graduate Research Excellence Award Fund was established in October 2001 by a gift from Velma Reich Schurch. This is a prestigious award, providing one scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 to an advanced graduate student working on their final MFA project or writing their dissertation. This award honors the life work of Velma Reich Schurch and Joan Schurch Thomson, mother-daughter graduates of the School. The family's vision for the Schurch Thomson Award is that it will provide recognition of graduate scholarship, focusing on any research area within the School of Human Ecology. The award is based on merit rather than need: the donors wish to recognize outstanding graduate research excellence and creative innovation.

Eligibility

- MFA or PhD graduate student in good academic standing and making satisfactory progress
- Students may also apply for the *Dissertation, MS Thesis, MFA Project Awards* but are not eligible to receive both

Required Application Materials

1. Description of the final project/dissertation (minimum 2 pages) outlining the purpose, methods, significance, and any preliminary findings.
2. Timeline for completing the project/dissertation
3. Curriculum vitae—one page maximum, including cumulative GPA
4. A confidential letter from the faculty advisor* addressing the significance of the student's research, academic scholarship and overall progress toward the project/dissertation.

**Advisors submitting recommendations for more than one student should make clear distinctions between students regarding the merits of each individual's work. Confidential letters must be delivered/emailed directly to the Graduate Program Coordinator.*

Review Criteria

Applications will be evaluated and ranked by the SoHE Graduate Program Committee (GPC) according to the following criteria:

1. Overall quality and clarity of the final project/dissertation description;
2. Student's academic record (GPA and other indicators of academic and professional achievement);
3. Confidential letter of support from the student's faculty advisor (Students whose project is mentored by an expert outside of the School should have a letter of support sent from that individual and the student's Department Chair)

Note: This is a competitive award based on the merit of the scholarship. The Graduate Program Committee is not obligated to make an award unless an application meets the standards set forth by the donor.

Application are due by March 15. Materials should be submitted via the Wisconsin Scholarship Hub:

https://wisc.academicworks.com/users/sign_in