



2025 SWITZER ENVIRONMENTAL FELLOWSHIP CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation invites graduate students in New England and California to apply for Switzer Environmental Fellowships for the 2025-2026 academic year. The fellowship includes a \$17,000 cash award, leadership training and lifelong opportunities for professional development and grants as part of the Switzer Network. Twenty fellowships will be awarded to graduate students seeking sustainable and equitable solutions to environmental problems. Guidelines and instructions are available at www.switzernetwork.org/fellowship/become-fellow.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 6, 2025

The Switzer Fellowship Program

The Switzer Fellowship represents an extraordinary opportunity for graduate students from diverse academic and personal backgrounds who have career goals focused on environmental improvement, demonstrate leadership in their field, and are committed to advancing social equity as a fundamental part of their environmental problem-solving.

Each fellowship award includes a \$17,000 cash award, attendance at two multi-day retreat trainings, and engagement in the 750+ member Switzer Network. Switzer Fellows have access to further grant programs and long-term professional development support throughout their careers.

Twenty fellowships are awarded each year to students who are **enrolled in graduate programs at accredited institutions in the six New England states and California.** Ten fellowships are awarded in New England, and ten in California.

We strongly encourage students of color, first-generation college and graduate students, and individuals from traditionally underrepresented groups in environmental graduate programs to apply.

The Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation identifies and nurtures environmental leaders who have the ability and determination to make a significant positive impact. More than 750 Switzer Fellows across the world work to solve today's environmental challenges in diverse fields such as science, policy, justice, health, environmental education, advocacy, planning, business, law, and more. This year we will be selecting the 38th class of Switzer Fellows since the program was founded in 1986.

Find a full description of the fellowship program at www.switzernetwork.org/fellowship/become-fellow.

Candidate Profile

Candidates for the Switzer Fellowship should **demonstrate dedication to environmental improvement and outstanding leadership skills or potential, clearly communicate how they will apply their studies and expertise to environmental issues, and convey a clarity and sense of purpose** about their work.

Valued leadership qualities include awareness of the systemic inequities that create disproportionate environmental burdens on some communities, intersectional and collaborative approaches to problem-solving, and commitment to developing personal leadership, policy and engagement skills. We seek both emerging and established leaders, and acknowledge different styles of leadership, including quiet leaders.

Candidates for the Switzer Fellowship are chosen not only for their academic and scientific or technical work, but also on their **dedication to pursue practical and equitable solutions to environmental problems**. We seek applications from and award fellowships to students from many different graduate schools and programs, and from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds and life experiences.

The foundation is interested in applications from both terminal Master's degree students and doctoral students. Master's students who are likely to continue to a doctoral program should not apply until the doctoral stage. **Master's candidates must have completed at least one semester or quarter of course work to apply. PhD students must have completed at least three years of doctoral study or have passed their qualifying exams as of July 1, 2025** (no exceptions). Applicants must be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient, or a refugee or asylee according to the [definition](#) provided by the United States Department of Homeland Security. International students are not eligible.

How to Apply

The online application and instructions are found at www.switzernetwork.org/fellowship/become-fellow. **All applications must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. Pacific time on January 6, 2025, with all required documentation.** Paper applications, incomplete applications, or late submissions will not be considered.

If you have any questions, please contact foundation staff by e-mail:

- Laine Kuehn (they/them), Administrative Coordinator (laine@switzernetwork.org)
- Maya Higgins (she/her), Program Manager (maya@switzernetwork.org)