

Deming Doctoral Fellowship

Application Guidelines

The Deming Center at Columbia Business School is calling for proposals for the Deming Doctoral Fellowships initiative. These fellowships support doctoral students on applied research projects. The spirit of this fellowship is to validate academic hypotheses by doing applied work with a particular company's data set to enhance research and further bridge theory and practice.

During his tenure at Columbia Business School, Dr. W. Edwards Deming envisioned the creation of a center of intellectual leadership that would “transform industry, education, and government...to attain the highest level of performance in products, services, and the working environment.” The Deming Center aims to fulfill that goal by integrating academic research and business practice in operations to ensure the continued relevance and effective application of Deming's principles.

The Deming Doctoral Fellowships are open to doctoral students across all divisions in the Business School as well as in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research (IE&OR) at SEAS who are doing work that will contribute to operational improvements and data-driven management principles. The fellowships provide an opportunity for students to engage in a meaningful applied research project and gain valuable experience. Priority will be given to rising 3rd and 4th year students although all doctoral students are welcome and encouraged to apply.

Application for Proposals

Please answer the following 3 questions on no more than 1 page:

- 1) How does your proposal align with W. Edwards Deming's 14 Points for Management and his vision of leadership?
- 2) Describe the ways in which your project will bridge theory and practice.
- 3) What is the projected impact of your research?
- 4) In addition, please attach a one- to two-page proposal that outlines a high-level description of the project along with the type of data you are proposing to analyze.

The body of the proposal should include:

- ✓ Motivation for the work
- ✓ Brief description of existing research and literature
- ✓ Description of proposed research
- ✓ Information/company access you will need or have already arranged
- ✓ Anticipated results and practical impact
- ✓ As an appendix, related working papers if any exist

Guidelines

- ✓ All proposals must describe the proposed research, the anticipated involvement of the partner company and be supported by a faculty advisor.
- ✓ The project should consist of a test of existing research and/or new research that is done in conjunction with a company, using the company's input on the problem formulation and tested on their data, as appropriate. Preference is given to projects that utilize unique company or institutional data although proposals relying on publicly available or industry data sets may still apply.

Fellowship Deliverables

- ✓ A working paper reporting the findings, due on January 30, 2022.
- ✓ Presentation of the work at the Doctoral Fellows Seminar in the Spring of 2022.
- ✓ An executive summary (max. 2 pages) with the description, analysis, and impact of the project in the Spring of 2022.
- ✓ Final paper due in the Spring of 2022.

Support

- ✓ Student will receive an award of \$5,000 divided in 2 payments: an initial payment at the beginning of the project as soon as data is secured and the remainder when all deliverables are provided.
- ✓ When and if travel is possible during the course of the project, an additional \$2,000 in travel funds will be provided, as needed, for on-site visits. Previous approval from the Deming Center is required before expenses are incurred.

Proposals should be sent to Abigail Talcott-Schlaifer (at2947@gsb.columbia.edu) no later than **June 1, 2021**. Awards will be announced by June 23, 2021.