***2018 SWITZER ENVIRONMENTAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM***

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – Please Circulate**

**The Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation invites applications from highly talented graduate students in New England and California for Switzer Environmental Fellowships for the academic year 2018-2019. The Fellowship includes a $15,000 cash award for academic studies, and two multi-day leadership development trainings. Twenty fellowships will be awarded to assist graduate students in a broad range of environmental science and related fields. Guidelines and instructions are available on our website at** [**http://www.switzernetwork.org/become-fellow**](http://www.switzernetwork.org/become-fellow)**. All applications must be submitted online per the instructions.**

***Deadline for Applications: January 8, 2018***

**The Switzer Fellowship Program**

For over thirty years, the Robert & Patricia Switzer Foundation has sponsored Fellowships for environmental graduate students from diverse backgrounds in New England and California. Each Fellowship award is $15,000 and represents an extraordinary opportunity for selected students. The Switzer Environmental Fellowship offers more than the financial award. Awardees participate in two required multi-day trainings and networking retreats during the Fellowship year, and have access to long-term leadership development opportunities throughout their careers. The Switzer Fellowship is NOT a research grant; rather, it supports individuals who demonstrate leadership by seeking sustainable and equitable solutions to environmental problems. This year we will be selecting the 32nd class of Switzer Fellows since the program was founded in 1986.

The Switzer Environmental Fellowship awards are extremely competitive. 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 typically receive well over 150 applications for the ten Fellowships in each region. A full description of the Fellowship program is found on our website at <http://www.switzernetwork.org/become-fellow> . We are seeking an increase in Master’s degree applicants. First generation graduate students, students of color, and individuals from underrepresented groups in environmental graduate programs are encouraged to apply.

The goal of the Switzer Foundation is to mobilize leaders from diverse disciplines to find integrated solutions to environmental issues. Switzer Fellows receive professional development support and become part of the Switzer Fellowship Network of over 600 environmental professionals and Fellowship alumni. **The Switzer Fellowship Network** is a highly respected resource locally, nationally and internationally for non-profit organizations, government agencies, policy makers, and others. Bolstered by the Foundation’s long-term support, Switzer Fellows are using their expertise in natural and social sciences to sustain, restore, and steward our life support systems and create sustainable communities. In addition to the Fellowship award, Switzer Fellows gain access to other Switzer Foundation grant programs and professional development opportunities to advance their careers.

**Candidate Profile**

Candidates for the Fellowship should demonstrate outstanding leadership potential, be able to clearly communicate how they will apply their studies and their expertise to environmental issues, and convey a clarity and sense of purpose about their work. Leadership qualities valued by the Switzer Foundation include a desire to work collaboratively and across disciplines, a commitment to applied environmental work and to sustainability and equity, interest in developing leadership skills, and a willingness to build networks across fields and sectors. Candidates for the Switzer Fellowship are chosen not only for their excellence in academic and scientific or technical work, but also on their dedication to aggressively pursue practical and equitable solutions to environmental problems. Fellows have studied in a range of fields including conservation science, environmental law, public policy, natural resources management, environmental justice, city planning, business, engineering, law, journalism and more. We seek applications from, and will make awards to, students from a diverse cross-section of graduate schools and programs, and from a diversity of backgrounds and life experiences. More detailed information about the Switzer Foundation, the Environmental Fellowship Program, and the network of Switzer Fellows can be found on the Switzer website at [www.switzernetwork.org](http://www.switzernetwork.org).

The Switzer 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. To be eligible, **PhD students** must have completed at least three years of doctoral study as of July 1, 2018 or have passed their qualifying exams by May 1, 2018, no exceptions. All potential applicants must be U.S. citizens in order to be eligible.

**How to Apply**

The **online application form** and instructions are available on our website at <http://www.switzernetwork.org/become-fellow>. All applications must be submitted by January 8, 2018, 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 phone at 207-338-5654 or by e-mail as follows:

* For eligibility and general questions: Erin Lloyd, Program Director - erin@switzernetwork.org
* For technical assistance with online applications: Don Brackett, Administrative Director - don@switzernetwork.org