

UW Dairy Innovation Hub
Request for Proposals for Collaboratively Mentored Graduate Student Assistantships
UW-Madison, UW-River Falls, and UW-Platteville

The UW Dairy Innovation Hub is a \$7.8 million per year investment by the State of Wisconsin to build a world-class talent pool and enable bold discoveries to ensure that Wisconsin's dairy farmers, processors, and related agribusinesses will be at the global forefront in producing nutritious dairy products in an economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable manner. The Hub will enhance scholarship and advance innovation in four priority areas needed to ensure the future success and resiliency of the dairy industry in the state of Wisconsin. One of the goals within the DIH is to bring or retain top prospective graduate students and increase graduate training capacity at UW-Madison.

This RFP seeks proposals that will fund graduate student assistantships for graduate students to work on innovative and impactful dairy-related research that will fit within one of the four priority areas of the Hub:

1. Steward Land and Water Resources
2. Enrich Human Health and Nutrition
3. Ensure Animal health and Welfare
4. Grow Farm Businesses and Communities

A strong priority of the DIH is to increase collaboration between the dairy-related programs at the comprehensive campuses (UW-Platteville and UW-River Falls) and dairy-related programs at UW-Madison. An additional goal within the DIH is to bring or retain top prospective graduate students and increase graduate training capacity at UW-Madison. Therefore, this RFP solicits proposals that will fund graduate student assistantships for graduate students, co-mentored by a PI at UW-Platteville or UW-River Falls and a PI at UW-Madison, to work on dairy-related research that fits one of the four priority areas listed above. The two PI's will serve as co-mentors for the student.

Collaborative Graduate Student Fellowship Overview, Deadline and Funding:

These proposals should detail the proposed research and if funded, a prospective student can be recruited. The goal is to attract top prospective graduate students, fund novel research projects that will benefit Wisconsin's dairy industry, and to increase collaboration between UW-Platteville or UW-River Falls and UW-Madison. **This call is intended to fund an undergraduate student from UW-Platteville or UW-River Falls to attend graduate school at UW-Madison in a project where they will be co-mentored by a PI from their home institution and a PI at Madison.** If a prospective student has already been identified, that student can be listed within to strengthen the application, although this is not required. To be eligible for this proposal, a co-mentor team must be defined and represent a PI from UW-Platteville College of Business, Industry, Life Science, and Agriculture or College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science; UW-River Falls College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences; UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

Proposals are due by Friday June 12, 2020 and award decisions will be made by August 3, 2020. Funding will be available for summer or September 2021 graduate student start dates. Proposals will be submitted following the [UW-Madison Graduate Student Assistantship RFP](#).

The only differences are:

- Short Title in WISPER should be UW Dairy Innovation Hub: Collaborative Graduate Student Assistantship.
- Complete the [collaborative graduate student assistantship cover sheet](#).
- Item 2, Budget Justification: Clarify where (which campus) animal and lab work will be completed and if it will be completed during the 2-year graduate program or if it will be done prior. Travel of graduate student and PIs between campuses is allowable in the budget.
- Item 5, Mentoring and management plan: Include how the two PI's will work together collaboratively specifically noting the role of each PI in the project and in mentoring. Also, outline a plan for how the student will work with both PIs, plans for open communication and collaboration. This section has a 2-page limit for collaborative proposals (1-page limit for UW-Madison proposals).
- Collaborative proposals will be reviewed as a separate category from the UW-Madison graduate student assistantship proposals. Reviewers will include faculty from UW-Madison, UW-Platteville, and UW-River Falls. Review criteria will be the same as described in the UW-Madison RFP for graduate student assistantships with an additional criterion of: Does this proposal stimulate a new collaboration or strengthen an existing collaboration between UW-Platteville or UW-River Falls and UW-Madison in a dairy-related area of research?
- If you are looking for a collaborator, contacts are:
 - Troy Runge, UW-Madison, trunge@wisc.edu
 - Tera Montgomery, UW-Platteville, montgomeryt@uwplatt.edu
 - Steve Kelm, UW-River Falls, steven.kelm@uwrf.edu
- Questions on scope of research, acceptability, or proposal process, contact Faculty Director Heather White, heather.white@wisc.edu.
- Questions on process, forms, etc. should be directed to Program Manager Maria Woldt, maria.woldt@wisc.edu.