

Thornton Tomasetti Foundation

Student Innovation Fellowship Guidelines

For 2025-2026 Academic Year

Overview

The Thornton Tomasetti Foundation (TTF) was established in 2008 with a mission to fund projects, scholarships and fellowships in building engineering, design or technology. This Student Innovation Fellowship offers up to \$5,000 in funding for specific projects that further innovation in the structural engineering and applied mechanics practice. Any projects that fulfil the goal of innovation will be considered. General suggested topics include innovations that support: The integration of engineering and architecture; sustainability; and applying new approaches, such as robotics, nano technology, big data, material sciences or building damping solutions, to problems in the built environment.

1. Goal of the fellowship

The up to \$5,000 fellowship (including expenses) aims to fund the development of a specific project. The project can result in a paper **published** in a journal or other open forum, include a computer program, or a prototype with design drawings. The foundation reserves the right to publish any findings, computer programs, and drawings on the foundation website.

2. Eligibility

The applicant must be graduating from a U.S. university or college and entering into a Master's program, or currently enrolled in a Master's or Ph.D. program.

3. Application Process

Candidates and their projects must be nominated by a department chair. The department chair must submit one candidate qualifications (#4, below) via email to the Thornton Tomasetti Foundation (info@ThorntonTomasettiFoundation.org) by March 31. The Thornton Tomasetti Foundation jury will meet in April and notify the participating department chairs by the end of April.

4. Submission Requirements

- In addition to the nomination from the department chair, a one-page letter of recommendation from another faculty member.
- A one-page copy of the applicants resume
- A one-page description of the project including the goals of the innovation and project deliverables. Graphics may be added.
- A list of tasks required to achieve the project goals.
- Any equipment required, its description and costs.

5. Recipient Responsibilities

The recipient agrees to provide a high-resolution headshot (in .jpg format) for the Foundation to use to announce the National Fellowship.

The recipient agrees to provide progress reports (up to 750 words with illustrations and high-resolution photos if needed) within 6 months of receipt of the fellowship award and every 6 months thereafter.

Upon completion, the recipient agrees to provide, at minimum, a technical white paper describing the project goals and the results of the fellowship. Including a separate one-page summary or abstract.

The recipient is encouraged to reach out to the foundation to help find mentors for the project and venues for publication of successful results.

The recipient agrees to complete the project within 24 months. If the applicant cannot complete the project, fellowship reimbursement will be in accordance with the university policies.

Payment will be 50% of the grant up front and the remainder at the end of the fellowship program. This can vary depending on the expenses required to commence the project.

6. Other Thornton Tomasetti Foundation programs

The TTF foundation is currently supporting our mission with the National Scholarship, the Technical Literacy Fellowship and this Student Innovation Fellowship, as well as several grant programs and collaborating arrangements with other nonprofits.