Mortenson Graduate Fellowship Award Process
December 31, 2015

This process is managed by Robyn Sandekian, Managing Director of the Mortenson Center in Engineering for Developing Communities (MC-EDC).

Mortenson Graduate Fellowships are currently awarded during the spring semester so that students entering the program in August have an opportunity to engage with Mortenson Center activities and compete for this funding.

In accordance with the Mortenson Center in Engineering for Developing Communities Pure Endowment Fund Agreement, section 2.G., a portion of the distributions shall be used to provide student support to graduate students who are engaged in Mortenson Center activities. The initial allocation (as shown in section 7.G.) is five percent of the annual distribution plus a cost-of-living index increase, which currently equates to $10,750 per year for the 2015-16 academic year.

Students who are officially enrolled in an EDC track within the Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering and those enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Engineering for Developing Communities are eligible to apply for these fellowships. Eligible students are notified of the application process and timeline via an email distributed in early December. Applications are due in early January, prior to the first week of classes. During this time, students are reminded to apply for these funds at least once through an email sent by the MC-EDC Managing Director or assigned designee.

Currently the process involves the completion of a short paper-based application and the submission of unofficial transcripts. The weighted award criteria are clearly listed on the application form. The application requires students to complete two (or three) brief written statements on topics chosen by the MCEDC Leadership Team.

The Managing Director collects the application materials and electronically distributes them to all members of the MCEDC Leadership Team for evaluation. Executive Committee members meet to discuss and rank applicants, and determine the number and amount of awards to be offered. Recipients and non-recipients are notified by the MC-EDC Managing Director as soon as possible after the award decisions are made.

Funds are transferred directly to the Bursar’s Office Tuition and Fee Bill account for each fellowship recipient. The intent is to ensure that these funds are available prior to the initial tuition due date of spring semester, however, students are notified in their award letter that they are responsible for ensuring that their bills are paid on time.

Each recipient is required to write a thank you note to the Mortenson Family for providing these funds. Students submit their letters to the MC-EDC Managing Director who makes copies to be placed in the CU Foundation donor file and then forwards them to the Mortenson Family.

*The student representative on the Leadership Team is excluded from evaluating applications if s/he has applied for a fellowship.