



TIER-ED Graduate Fellows Program

AY 2021-2022

Submission Deadline: [Friday, April 23, 2021 by 5 p.m. Central Time](#)

Technology Innovation in Educational Research and Design (TIER-ED) Fellowships are awarded each year to graduate students working on a research project in a TIER-ED focused area. TIER-ED strongly encourages designing, developing, building, trialing, assessing, scaling, disseminating, and commercializing evidence-based, replicable, cutting-edge, and transformational technological tools, solutions, and platforms to support, enhance, and create innovative learning environments and practices. The Fellows selection process is competitive and research projects are chosen by a committee of faculty members from disciplines within and outside of the College of Education. Applications are solicited each Spring for the academic year beginning the following Fall. The proposed research must be interdisciplinary and must have a strong and clearly defined technology focus, with implications for critical issues in education (e.g., learning, equity and access, etc.).

Due to COVID-19, research plans had to be modified as many in-person actions and requirements could not be completed. We encourage students to apply for this fellowship who had to incorporate technology and use online methods to continue with their research and data collection even if their original research plan did not focus on technology and education. The proposal must be submitted jointly by the student and at least two faculty co-advisors *from different disciplines*. The Co-Advisors must be TIER-ED affiliates, and can be from the same department, but must have different research foci, bring different expertise, etc. TIER-ED Fellows selected by the committee will receive \$20,000 for one academic year (9 months) and that will also make the Fellow eligible for tuition waiver (unless in a self-supporting or cost-recovery program; prospective applicants can check with their respective departments). The fellowship comes with expectations that Fellows participate in TIER-ED initiatives during the award year and will regularly utilize the TIER-ED student/faculty workspace at the Children's Research Center when in-person activities resume on campus. TIER-ED Fellows will also present their research progress and processes at a TIER-ED community event or seminar in the Spring semester.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicant:

- Must be enrolled in a doctoral program as an on-campus, full-time student at the University of Illinois during the 2021-22 Academic Year.
- Must show significant progress in completing coursework and have both advisors' nominations to apply for this fellowship.

- Must be interested in interdisciplinary research and show clearly how the proposed study has scope for such collaborative work.
- Must plan to do research on or with one or multiple technologies and their role in addressing critical issues in education.
- Optional: If your research has been modified to incorporate technology to overcome the research challenges imposed by the pandemic.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Clearly stated project idea with concise literature review demonstrating originality and creativity in the proposed research.
- The visibility of interdisciplinary work that the study incorporates. Proposed work needs to clearly explain why it requires the integration of more than one discipline to achieve the project goals.
- The relevance of the project to the vision and goals of TIER-ED.
- The TIER-ED affiliates' commitment to invest in the project and collaborate with the student applicant. TIER-ED affiliates are members who are invested in the goals of TIER-ED, research interest lies in the domain of technology and learning, and are actively involved in the development, expansion, and advancement of TIER-ED initiatives. Our current affiliates are listed on the TIER-ED [website](#). If an advisor wishes to join as a TIER-ED affiliate, please contact tier-ed@education.illinois.edu for more information.
- Clear and feasible research activity timeline and expected milestones to be completed by the end of the fellowship period.

PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING

All application materials must be received by 5 p.m. CST on Friday, April 23, 2021. Please submit the following documents with a cover letter by email to tier-ed@education.illinois.edu, and request that your recommenders submit their letters directly to TIER-ED at tier-ed@education.illinois.edu within 5 days of the application deadline.

Below are the required documents to apply for the fellowship:

- Curriculum vitae
- Project description (maximum 5 pages single-spaced, excluding references). It should explain the interdisciplinary nature of the project and its relevance to TIER-ED vision and goals. A timeline of project milestones and a listing of co-advisors with their respective roles should also be included.
- Names and email addresses of two references (at least 1 of which is one of the Co-Advisors). You must ask your referees to directly [email](#) references to TIER-ED.
- Graduate Transcript (Unofficial or official).

Note: TIER-ED will consider applications submitted by advisors on behalf of a prospective student (i.e., their first year in a doctoral program will be AY 2021-22). Submission materials can be modified to accommodate this situation. If an advisor wishes to submit a proposal for a prospective student, please contact tier-ed@education.illinois.edu for guidance.

For Additional Information or questions, please contact

[Tabassum Amina](#) (Post-doctoral Research Associate, TIER-ED)

Or

[Robb Lindgren](#) (Director, TIER-ED)

Technology Innovation in Educational Research and Design (TIER-ED)

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