



DEPARTMENT OF
WRITING STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

**Call for Applications for the 2009-10 Industrial Affiliates Program (IAP)
Fellowships in Technical Communication**

Medtronic and US Bank, as part of their affiliations with the University of Minnesota, Writing Studies Department, Programs in Scientific and Technical Communication, have established fellowships in the amount of \$2,000 each for graduate students in our program. One fellowship per company will be awarded for the 2009-10 academic year. The fellowship may be used by a student to support his or her graduate research. The following describes the criteria of the fellowships and the application procedures. In the past, fellowship winners have used this opportunity to work on part of their thesis or dissertation and have published papers and given presentations as a result of their collaborations with our industry partners. These Fellowships are an exciting opportunity to do research in a “live” setting and to see how the exigencies of workplace technical communication relate to the theories you learn in class.

The funds are a result of a gift to the Department. You may use these funds in any manner that is in support of your graduate work.

Criteria

Applicants must be full-time graduate students in good standing OR candidates accepted into one of the three degree programs: the M.S. in Scientific and Technical Communication, or the M.A. or Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Scientific and Technical Communication. This fellowship is intended to support serious, scholarly research, and, as such, preference will be given to students with a clear research direction that is compatible with the topics listed below.

Topics

The IAP Graduate Fellowships in Technical Communication are designed to support students whose work will contribute to the field of technical communication with an emphasis on areas of importance to the individual companies. The following is a list of some topics that are of importance in today’s technical communication workplace. However, the primary goal of these Fellowships is to support graduate research, so applicants should feel free to suggest other research topics.

1. User generated content
2. Corporate uses of blogging with customers
3. Trends in content types for the Web
4. Global information exchange: How writing for a global audience can impact relationships.
5. Is “writing for translation” an effective method of communication or is it artificial?
6. Wordless communication: How effective are sign and symbols in conveying information?

How to Apply

To apply for one of the IAP Graduate Fellowships in Technical Communication, you must submit the following:

- A. A short essay (4-5 pages) describing your background, career goals, and your research. You may wish to note how your research is related to one of the topics listed in the previous section or another affiliate-related topic.
- B. Your curriculum vita or resume.
- C. A signed memo giving the Fellowship committee permission to review your graduate application file. In lieu of this, you may submit current transcripts, one letter of recommendation, and GRE scores.

Your Obligations

The IAP Graduate Fellowships in Technical Communication were created to support a graduate student whose research goals and potential contributions to the field can be supported by a collaborative research relationship with one of the IAP companies. In addition, the Fellowships are designed to support a student who shows strong potential for playing a major role in the field of technical communication and workplace communication. The funds are for the student, to use as needed, however, students are encouraged to work with the company in any way that would support their research. In May of the year a student receives the award, he or she should be present at the annual Industrial Affiliates colloquium to receive the Fellowship. This year the date is May 15. In May of the following year, fellowship winners are required to give an oral presentation of the research at the annual Industrial Affiliates Colloquium as well as to the company. Students will also be required to write a report summarizing the work done during the fellowship year. Finally, students are encouraged to submit a paper to a local or national conference, perhaps jointly with a faculty member from Writing Studies and a professional from the company.

Timeline

Submit your application materials **no later than noon, Tuesday, April 7, 2009** to

Professor Bernadette Longo, Director of Graduate Studies
Dept. of Writing Studies, University of Minnesota
% of Mary Wrobel
180 Wesbrook Hall
77 Pleasant Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

The fellowship winner will be announced in mid to late April 2009.

Go to <http://writingstudies.umn.edu/about/iap/fellowships.html> to see previous winners.