

**ANNOUNCEMENT FOR  
FULL-TIME 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR ENGINEERING GRADUATE STUDENTS**

IN THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS:

**BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING; CHEMICAL & BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING;  
CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING; COMPUTER & INFORMATION SCIENCES;  
ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING; MATERIALS SCIENCE & ENGINEERING;  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

**George W. Laird Merit Fellowship 2021**  
**UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE • COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

The George W. Laird Merit Fellowship is an annual award granted to a full-time engineering graduate student currently in his/her first year at the University of Delaware. The award is given in memory of George W. Laird, who earned a master's degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering in 1971. Mr. Laird had broad interests both inside and outside of engineering and he pursued these interests with considerable vigor and skill. The award is based on merit and may be used for any purpose, although recipients are encouraged to use the funds for enriching activities outside of engineering. The 2020 award was in the amount of \$22,500. The award amount for 2021 has not yet been determined.

The initial step is to complete a dossier described below. Dossiers are **due to department chairs by February 1, 2021**. Department Chairs will deliver dossiers to the Dean's Office. A subcommittee of former Laird Fellows will select a number of semi-finalists who will advance to the second phase of the review process. The second phase includes a **tentative and/or virtual** reception on or about **Sunday, April 18, 2021** and a **tentative and/or virtual** interview with the Selection Committee on or about **Monday, April 19, 2021**.

Dossiers should be submitted **electronically in PDF format**. Dossier requirements are as follows:

- Cover letter to your department chair, announcing your interest in the competition. Please make sure to include your name, program of study, and start date in the degree program;
- Resume;
- Autobiographical sketch outlining interests, goals, academic and professional plans, avocations, etc. (maximum 1,000 words);
- Copies of college transcripts and other supporting documents that you deem important and pertinent. We ask for prudence in the amount of material included;
- A release form signed by you permitting the George W. Laird Merit Fellowship committees to review the dossier. Blank release forms will be available from the graduate coordinator in your academic department;
- Two or more letters of recommendation from UD Engineering faculty, previous employers, and others who could evaluate your character

Visit the Laird Fellowship website at [www.lairdfellowship.com](http://www.lairdfellowship.com)