

Falling Walls Lab – Illinois

Falling Walls Lab – Illinois (FWL-I) is a competition for the state of Illinois that will feed into an international event titled **Falling Walls Lab**. **Falling Walls Lab** is a conference on future breakthroughs in science and society. As part of the conference, there will be a competition similar to elevator pitch and idea competitions that are commonplace in the United States and beyond. The Illinois Innovation Network, in conjunction with the Discovery Partners Institute, is the lead sponsor of Falling Walls Lab – Illinois.

The Falling Walls Lab is an innovative format for academic institutions to showcase the quality, diversity and passion of their next generation of top researchers. In three-minute talks, up to 100 aspiring scientists and researchers present their research projects to their peers, the general public and a distinguished jury – promoting ideas and fostering interdisciplinary networks. The winner of each satellite Falling Walls Lab will be entered into the Falling Walls Lab Finale on November 8, 2019, in Berlin – the eve of the anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall. All finalists receive a scholarship, which allows them to participate in the Falling Walls Conference on November 9, 2019.

The deadline for the initial round of applications will be September 1, 2019. Applicants must have some type of relationship (graduate, researcher, faculty, etc.) with one of the Illinois Innovation Network Hubs. All applicants will need to respond to a number of questions that will be submitted to the *Falling Walls Lab* website. FWL-I judges will evaluate the applications and will invite a number of finalists to the state competition. The state competition will be held September 27, 2019 in Champaign, Illinois.

Contestants will give a three-minute talk, accompanied by three PowerPoint slides. After each contestant (no groups) speaks, judges will select a winner. The FWL-I winner will compete in the Falling Walls Lab Finale on November 8, 2019, in Berlin. All expenses will be paid. FWL-I will follow the international rules of FWL. For additional information go to <https://www.falling-walls.com/about>.

Falling Walls Lab – Illinois

When: September 27, 2019

Where: Champaign, Illinois

Entry Deadline: September 1, 2019

What: Pitch your innovative idea that creates a positive impact on science and society in three minutes

Who is eligible: Students, entrepreneurs, early-career researchers, and academics of all disciplines who have a connection to a hub of the Illinois Innovation Network. All students are eligible, and participants with degrees must be within five years of receiving their Ph.D., within seven of receiving their master's degree, or within 10 of receiving their bachelor's degree.

FWL-I Prize: All-expenses-paid trip to the Falling Walls Lab finale in Berlin, Germany, November 8-9.

FWL Grand Prize: Top 3 ideas receive prize money, the title "Falling Walls Young Innovator of the Year," and get to pitch their idea to the entire Falling Walls Conference