

2018/2019 Academic Year

Guidelines for Fellowship and Award Programs for Graduate Education in the College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS)

To support the recruitment of outstanding graduate students for the 2018/19 academic year, we will utilize a centralized nomination and review process for the college-wide funding opportunities listed below. Each of these funding opportunities are designed to enhance the recruitment of high caliber graduate students by strengthening departmental capacity to make competitive offers with rapid turn-around. We anticipate that the majority of Fall 2018 admission offers will be made in January and February of 2018 and have tailored the deadlines for the internal fellowship and award selection to facilitate this timing.

Department Heads or Intercollege Program Chairs should send one copy of the nomination packet, as a single pdf, to graded@psu.edu no later than **Wednesday, January 31, 2018**. Submissions that are received by the deadline will be given first consideration; late submissions will be accepted and maintained, but will be considered only if needed. The nomination packet for College Graduate Programs should include the following items, in order, as a single, unified pdf:

- College's Nomination Form
- Letter of Nomination – provided by the Department Head or Intercollege Program Chair indicating one to three reasons why the prospective student was nominated. The rationale should be related to their scholarly record or potential.

In addition to the items listed above, reviewers will be able to browse, as applicable, applications, transcripts, test scores, letters of recommendation, and the student's career or goal statement. These items will be compiled from the Graduate Admission Decisions System (GRAD). Due to the Office for Research and Graduate Education's inability to access GRADs information for students in the IGDPs, the following additional information will need to be submitted with IGDP nominations (summarized below):

- College Nomination Form
- Letter of Nomination from department head and/or IGDP Chair
- Copy of the graduate school admission application
- Copy of Undergraduate and Master's transcripts, if applicable
- Copy of the GRE or other tests scores, if applicable
- Two letters of recommendation
- Student's career or goal statement
- Award notations, as needed

All nominees should be in the **top 10%** of your admissions pool and must be advised by CAS faculty. The average GRE for all nominees in the 17/18 cohort was 155/153/3.9; average GPA was 3.61. GREs for university graduate fellowship/distinguished graduate fellowship recipients averaged 164/161/5.0 and average GPA was 3.93.

A team of three faculty members will review all nominations. In addition, the Assistant Dean for Multicultural Affairs will review Bunton-Waller nominations.

Program	Eligibility	Award
University Graduate Fellowship¹ (five students)	Available to outstanding new full-time Ph.D. students If funding is available, the top ranked UGF nominee will be recommended for a Distinguished Graduate Fellowship.	Provides \$15,000 and tuition for Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 (\$30,000 per academic year). These recipients will also receive \$2,500 for Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 (\$5,000 during the academic year) to maintain the funding threshold.
Black Endowed Graduate Fellowship¹ (up to five students)	Available to outstanding new full-time M.S. student.	Provides \$11,000 and tuition for Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 (\$22,000 per academic year).

Bunton-Waller Graduate Awards and CAS Underrepresented Minority Awards	<p>Available to outstanding underrepresented new full-time M.S. and Ph.D. students; <i>preference to students from SROP and/or McNair programs</i>. Nominees must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents who will enhance the diversity of the grad student body.</p> <p>For doctoral nominees, the department must guarantee assistantship support for <u>all</u> semesters after year one up to and including the semester in which comps. were passed.</p>	<p>Masters award provides two semesters grade 12 (minimum) stipend and two semesters tuition.</p> <p>Doctoral award provides two semesters grade 12 (minimum) stipends and two semesters full tuition during first year and two semesters stipend and two semesters of 601 tuition during post-comp year.</p>
FEGR Stipend Supplements (total of \$80,251 to be awarded)	<p>Available to all qualifying or eligible new M.S. and Ph.D. students.</p> <p>Stipend Supplements can be used to enable more competitive funding offers for incoming students.</p>	<p>Paid as a stipend increase, up to \$3,500, to the departmental stipend. Must coincide with a grade level in the applicable table of stipends for Graduate Assistants.</p>
Graham Endowed Awards (four students)	<p>Available to outstanding new full-time M.S. and Ph.D. students.</p>	<p>Provides \$2,000 for Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 (\$4,000 per academic year) and will be paid directly to the students Bursar account.</p>
McKenna Endowed Awards (up to four students)	<p>Available to outstanding full time M.S. and Ph.D. students. <i>Restricted to students whose area of study relates to environmental stewardship, especially in stream or watershed conservation.</i></p> <p>Current McKenna award recipients may be considered for renewal. Department Heads should submit a one page progress report with the nomination materials.</p>	<p>Provides \$2,000 for Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 \$4,000 per academic year) and will be paid directly to the students Bursar account.</p>

¹ Recipients of fellowships (i.e. DGF, UGF, Black, and Scarlett) cannot receive any form of stipend supplements (i.e. FEGR)

Status of College Commitments: All college funding commitments are contingent on the student accepting your offer of admission. **Please inform us (graded@psu.edu) immediately upon confirmation that the offer is accepted or declined.** Students should be in offer status at the time of their nomination and the department must guarantee continued support assuming the student is making satisfactory progress.

Graduate Student Recruiting: We anticipate a total of approximately \$14,520 in funding is available to match unit expenses for graduate student recruiting. **Unit leaders should submit recruiting cost share requests to the Office for Research and Graduate Education (graded@psu.edu) with the names of the visiting students and a confirmation that the unit will fund at least half of the cost.** Programs will be instructed to charge ½ of the actual expenses to a specific budget/fund for accessing these cost-sharing funds. The College will fund up to half of the student’s travel expenses, not to exceed \$300 per student (examples: total of \$700 in costs, the college will only provide \$300; \$350 in costs, the college will only provide \$175). Cost share requests will be accepted on an ongoing basis until funding is expended.