



# The Pennsylvania School for Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences (PSEAS) at **THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

The 2024 Pennsylvania School for Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences (PSEAS) summer residential program, formerly known as the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences, will offer 2 two-week sessions held at Penn State University Park campus for academically talented and gifted high school students (rising seniors) from throughout Pennsylvania.

Sponsored by Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, full scholarships are available, making this program free to participants.

## PROGRAM CONTACT

### Mailing Address:

PSEAS

Attention: Jenneth R. Layaou  
1971 Shortlidge Road  
101 Ag. Administration Bldg.  
University Park, PA 16802

**Phone:** 814-867-0383

**Email:** PSEAS@psu.edu

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## APPLICANT INFORMATION

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST WEEK TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION. NOTIFY COUNSELOR AND TEACHER REFERENCES OF INTENTION TO FILE APPLICATION WELL IN ADVANCE OF DEADLINE.

Discuss "pre" deadlines for completing work in order to send packet off on time.

Homeschoolers should contact the PSEAS Program Office for specific instructions on who may complete the forms.

REVIEW ALL FORMS BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE APPLICATION PROCESS.

SUPERVISE COMPLETION: The applicant is responsible for staying in communication with the counselor and teacher reference to make sure the application is completed appropriately and sent off by the postmark deadline.

Participants are required to be covered by a medical plan. If he/she is not, please contact the program director for options.

DO NOT ADD UNSOLICITED REFERENCES, RECOMMENDATIONS OR MATERIALS. Send only those requested. Do not add newspaper clippings, photographs, research papers, certificates or other un-solicited materials. Extraneous letters of recommendation other than the teacher reference and the counselor's recommendation and other unsolicited materials will be removed from applications.

UNDERSTANDINGS: PSEAS cannot provide individual assessments or grant appeals to the selection process.

Furthermore, PSEAS is not responsible for late, lost, and/or incorrectly addressed, incomplete or damaged applications

## DEADLINES AND DATES

Now offering 2 sessions!

Session 1: June 16-29, 2024

Session 2: July 7-20, 2024

Application Deadline:

February 23, 2024

Program Decision:

March 29, 2024

## NOTIFICATION

Notification of final status of the selection process will be made via email by March 29, 2024.

PSEAS cannot respond to requests in advance notice, individual assessments or appeals.

COMMITMENT TO PROGRAM: If accepting an invitation to participate in PSEAS, the student must commit to being in residence for the full program.

## ELIGIBILITY

GRADE LEVEL AT TIME OF APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Current junior high school student only

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: Must currently attend a public, charter or non-public secondary school or be home-schooled.

PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENCY: The primary full-time residence of least one custodial parent or legal, court-appointed guardian of the applicant must be in Pennsylvania. Military dependents based in Pennsylvania are eligible.

Trips home or other absences are not allowed.

Formal training unrelated to the curriculum (e.g. music practice, dance practice, or athletic training regimens for individual or team competitions) cannot be accommodated in the program.

GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION: Ineligibility (see above); lateness; failure to send application to the correct office; incompleteness of the application (it must be submitted in its entirety at one time); plagiarism; or falsification of information on the application.





# APPLICATION PROCEDURES

PSEAS asks that applicants, teachers, and counselors use the fillable form tools of the application (if possible) for completion, then to print, sign, and mail to the program address. Please do not staple any pages together.

Please retain a copy of the what you submit to your teacher/school counselor.

## PART 1: PERSONAL DATA FORM, AGREEMENT AND SIGNATURES

- Applicant will complete and sign pages 4 and 5 with a parent/guardian.
- An application missing any part may be disqualified for incompleteness.

## PART 2: APPLICANT'S RESUME AND PERSONAL NARRATIVE

- Applicant must attach a Resume; 3 page maximum, typed, single or double-spaced, letter quality font no smaller than 12 points. Your name, address, and contact information should appear at the top of each page.
  - Include extracurricular, ag/science-related activities, such as independent research projects, special study projects, or competitions in which you have been involved in the past two to three years in your school, or community or personal pursuits. Identify your role in each, list awards and honors for science and/or agricultural science related achievements and the source, reason and date of each.
- Applicant must attach a Personal Narrative; Essay format, 2 pages maximum, typed, double-spaced, with letter quality font no smaller than 12 points. Your name should appear at the top of each page. Title the essay "Personal Narrative, Prompt (#)." Please choose one prompt to write about in your Personal Narrative.
  - Prompt 1: Introduce yourself to the selection committee. Discuss why you wish to participate in the Pennsylvania School for Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences and what you hope to gain from participating in this program. Be as specific as possible about yourself and why you are willing to spend two weeks of your summer to come to PSEAS, and, in addition, why you think the committee should choose you. You may include information about your background, your interests, your pastimes (academic and nonacademic) and any other aspects of your life that will aid the committee in understanding who you are and why you want to participate in PSEAS.
  - Prompt 2: Choose an important person in agriculture to research. Feel free to choose from the list below, or write about someone else you know. Briefly introduce the person you chose to the selection committee, then explain why this person is inspiring to you. Make sure to include their impact in agriculture, why you think this person is important, and how you intend to follow in their footsteps. You are encouraged to include personal details about your background, interests, pastimes, and any other aspects of your life that will aid the committee in understanding who you are.
 

- Dr. Muhammad Yunus	- Harriet Williams Russell Strong	- Dr. Yuan Longping	- Dr. Modadugu Gupta
- Dr. Temple Grandin	- Dr. Daniel Hillel	- Simon N. Groot	- Catherine Bertini
- Rachel Carson	- Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted	- George Washington Carver	- M.S. Swaminathan
  - Prompt 3: Describe to the selection committee what agriculture means to you. Make sure to thoroughly explain your ideas and to give specific examples. In addition, explain how this point of view will help you be a fundamental participant of PSEAS. You are welcome to include information about your background, your interests and pastimes, and any other aspects of your life that will aid the committee in understanding who you are and why you want to participate in PSEAS.



## APPLICATION PROCEDURES

### PART 3: FOOD SECURITY FACTOR ESSAY

As part of the program, selected students will participate in the Pennsylvania Youth Institute (PYI) with the potential of becoming a Borlaug Scholar upon completion. The required completed template on page 6 will act as the foundation of the PYI paper. Selected students will be asked to develop the final paper to be submitted to the World Food Prize Foundation. Applicant must complete the Food Security Essay Template on Page 6.

- Select ONE country that is not your own, and ONE key factor affecting food security from our website.

### PART 4: VIDEO INTERVIEW

Applicant will be prompted to sign up for a brief 15-minute virtual interview as part of the application. Once the completed application is received, information of the interview process will be shared via email.

### PART 5: TEACHER FORM AND REFERENCE STATEMENT

Applicant is responsible for selecting and requesting one science or one agricultural teacher to serve as a reference. Upon agreement, forward the form on page 7 to the teacher. Applicant should provide a copy of supporting materials to the teacher.

- The teacher should complete the form, sign, and seal in an envelope for the applicant.
- The applicant is responsible for collecting a sealed envelope from the teacher with the signed form and reference letter.

### PART 6: SCHOOL COUNSELOR FORM, REFERENCE STATEMENT, AND TRANSCRIPT

Applicant is responsible for requesting their school counselor to complete the school counselor form on page 8, sign, and include the applicant's transcript.

- The school counselor will serve as a second reference using the lines provided or on an additional page. Counselor will also provide a copy of the applicant's official transcript.
- Homeschoolers, should give the Counselor form to the Home-school Evaluator.
- The school counselor should complete the form, sign, and include the transcript in a sealed envelope.

### PART 7: CHECKLIST SUBMISSION BY APPLICANT AND SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Confirm all sections of the application has been completed and mail to address on page 1.





# APPLICANT PERSONAL DATA FORM

APPLICANT NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or Box Number City, State, Zip Code

HOME TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ APPLICANT CELL NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

GMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

GENDER: MALE FEMALE DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

APPLICANT'S CURRENT GRADE LEVEL \_\_\_\_\_ PREFERRED SESSION: SESSION 1 SESSION 2

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WHICH YOU RESIDE \_\_\_\_\_

OPTIONAL INFORMATION: HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY YOURSELF? PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:  
(This information is confidential)

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian / Alaskan Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Black / African American           | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian American |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Latino / Hispanic American       | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> White American |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                            | <input type="checkbox"/> 1st Generation Student             |   |

## PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION:

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN'S NAME 1 \_\_\_\_\_

HOME TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN'S NAME 2 \_\_\_\_\_

HOME TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_



# AGREEMENT AND SIGNATURES

## APPLICANT'S STATEMENT AND SIGNATURE

- I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, all of the information I have provided is accurate and that the work submitted is my own. I acknowledge that information about my selection to the Pennsylvania School for Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences and the projects I may develop there may be shared with the public.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to return this form and the required attachments to my school counselor.
- I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to stay in touch with my school counselor to ensure that the application is submitted in complete form, postmarked by the appropriate date and mailed to the PSEAS Program Office at The Pennsylvania State University.

**APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

## PARENT/GUARDIAN'S STATEMENT AND SIGNATURE

- I have reviewed the information on this form and give my permission for my child to proceed with the application procedures and authorize my child's school and its employees to release any information necessary for this application.
- I acknowledge that it is my child's responsibilities to ensure that the application is submitted in complete form, postmarked by the appropriate date, and mailed to the PSEAS Program Office at the Pennsylvania State University, University Park campus.
- I understand that the application becomes the property of the Pennsylvania School for Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences (PSEAS) and cannot be returned. I am aware that the PSEAS cannot respond to requests for individual assessments or appeals.
- I understand my child is required to be covered by a medical plan to participate. If he/she is not covered, I will contact the program director for options.
- I understand if my child is selected, additional permission and medical forms may be requested.

**PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_



# FOOD SECURITY ESSAY TEMPLATE

Using the below template, also found on the website with the application, complete the paragraphs as part of the application and as the foundation of the PYI paper. The final paper required format is Times New Roman, 11pt font, single-spaced, double-spaced between paragraphs with one-inch margins and reference citing in APA format. Each section is important in the development of your paper. Please see the list of Food Security Factors at the PYI website.

Instructions Website: <https://agsci.psu.edu/visitors-and-public/youth-opportunities/pennsylvania-youth-institute-information/instructions>



First and Last Name, PA School for Excellence in the Ag Sciences  
Name of High School, City, PA  
Country, Factor #: Factor Name

## Title

Introduction: Introduction of the Country. This includes location, population, climate, etc. Be sure to include the impact your chosen factor has on this country.

Section 1: Explain what a typical family/lifestyle looks like. This may include family size and composition, diet, education, and access to healthcare.

Section 2: Describe either a Typical Farm (farm size, crops grown, animals raised, and agricultural practices) OR Urban Area (employment and wages, access to purchased food, urban food production)

Section 3: Are there any barriers facing the typical family regarding food production, employment, or accessing food markets? Please explain.

Section 4: What is the food security factor you will address? What is the current status of this factor? Is the trend of this factor improving, worsening, or constant?

Section 5: What solutions or ideas do you have to improve food security for the typical family? How could these be realistically implemented? Where would you find funding?

Conclusion: Conclusion. Recap factor, barriers, and solution.

## **Bibliography - Example**

Allianz Care. Accessed on 12, May 2023 “Guide: Healthcare in Italy.” Retrieved from:  
<https://www.allianzcare.com/en/support/health-and-wellness/national-healthcare-systems/healthcare-in-italy.html>

# TEACHER REFERENCE FORM

This form can be found electronically at <https://agsci.psu.edu/school-for-excellence> for easier completion.

**APPLICANT'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **TEACHER NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**TEACHER EMAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_ **TEACHER SUBJECT AREA** \_\_\_\_\_

1. How does the applicant compare in overall promise with other students whom you have taught during your career? Please click one statement below:

Among the very best I have known

Very good, but not the very best

Average

Below Average

2. Please check one selection below to indicate your recommendation for the applicant for the Pennsylvania School for Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences:

Highly Recommended

Recommended

Recommended with Reservations

Not Recommended

3. For each item below, please assess the applicant by assigning one of the following values: (A=exceptional, B=above average, C=average, D=below average, E=no opportunity to observe)

\_\_\_\_\_ Analytical Ability

\_\_\_\_\_ Appropriate Reaction to and use of Criticism

\_\_\_\_\_ Oral Expression

\_\_\_\_\_ Initiative and Independence

\_\_\_\_\_ Leadership Qualities

\_\_\_\_\_ Written Communication Skills

\_\_\_\_\_ Interaction with Others

\_\_\_\_\_ Personal Organizational Skills

4. Please write a statement about this applicant's strengths and weaknesses, explaining why you rated the applicant as you did. Please cite examples of outstanding contributions, achievements, or challenges. Your response is important and will assist the selection committee in understanding if this student is ready for a sustained intensive living/learning experience. Check this box if attaching a letter

**TEACHER'S SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_



# SCHOOL COUNSELOR FORM

This form can be found electronically at <https://agsci.psu.edu/school-for-excellence> for easier completion.

**APPLICANT'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNSELOR'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Transcript

Include the applicant's transcript to this form.

2. Attendance Record

Number of absences in the last full academic year: \_\_\_\_\_

(IMPORTANT: If the number exceeds 10, please state reason(s) and whether the number has remained high this year)

Number of tardies in the last full academic year: \_\_\_\_\_

(IMPORTANT: If the number exceeds 10, please state reason(s) and whether the number has remained high this year)

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Please check one selection below to indicate your recommendation for the applicant for the Pennsylvania School for Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences:

- Highly Recommended
- Recommended
- Recommended with Reservations
- Not Recommended

4. Please comment on the applicant's special qualities, challenges, or problems of which the selection committee should be aware. You are strongly encouraged to attach a separate letter. Check this box if attaching a letter

5. Signature

*The information I have provided is complete and correct. I have read the Procedures and the Deadline and Submission Information. I understand that an application may be disqualified if it is late, incomplete or sent to an incorrect agency. I understand that the applicant can be disqualified on the basis of grade level ineligibility, residency ineligibility, and previous program participation, plagiarism, or falsification of information.*

**COUNSELOR'S SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_