

2020/2021 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 2020/21 academic year, we will continue to utilize a centralized nomination and review process for the college-wide funding opportunities listed below. Each of the following funding opportunities are designed to enhance the recruitment of high caliber graduate students by strengthening departmental capacity to make competitive offers. We anticipate that the majority of Fall 2020 admission offers will be made in early 2020 and have tailored the deadline to facilitate this timing.

All nominations received for Graduate School awards will be awarded through the Graduate Awards Tracking System (GRATS). During this interim year of incorporating awards into GRATS (to include both CAS and Graduate School Awards in the future), the Office for Research and Graduate Education will continue to accept nominations as we have in the past via pdf. Nominations will then be entered into GRATS as appropriate. However, with the move to GRATS, the College will have to adopt and adhere to the limitations and controls that are currently established by the Graduate School's system. During this transition year, per Graduate School guidance and awaiting the Intercollege Graduate Degree Programs (IGDP) task force's recommendations, *only* nominations for CAS Graduate Programs can be accepted. Huck IGDP students in ECLGY, MCIBS, BGEN, PHSIO, and PLBIO, should have their nomination submitted through their respective program as funding is provided directly to those programs by the Graduate School.

The nomination packet for CAS Graduate Programs should include the following items, in order, as a single, unified pdf:

- 1) College's Nomination Form
 - a. GREs are required on nominations if the program requires GREs (as outlined in the Graduate Degree Bulletin)
- 2) Letter of Nomination (maximum of one page) provided by the Department Head to include:
 - a. two to five reasons to support the nomination - rationale should be related to the scholarly record or potential
 - b. any new, novel supplemental information to support and justify the nomination, do not repeat information contained on the nomination form or available through the GRADs system; and
 - c. guarantee of second year support, assuming the student is making satisfactory academic progress.

Awarding of the fellowships and awards will be based on academic excellence and thus, the nominee's academic records may be reviewed as criteria for selection. This may include (as applicable) applications, transcripts, test scores, letters of recommendation, and the student's career or goal statement as provided to the Graduate Admission Decisions System (GRADS).

Department Heads should send the nomination packet, as a single pdf, to graded@psu.edu no later than **Friday, January 31, 2020**. Submissions that are received by the deadline will be given first consideration; late submissions will be accepted and maintained but will only be considered if needed. Reviews will be conducted February 6-14 and decisions will be relayed to the programs the week of February 17.

All nominees should be in the top 10% of your admission pool and must be advised by CAS faculty. GREs may not be required by your program, however if your program does require GREs scores, as outlined in the Graduate Bulletin, then those scores must be included on the nomination form. The average GRE for all nominees in the 19/20 cohort was 155/155/4.1; average GPA was 3.67. GREs for university graduate fellowship/distinguished graduate fellowship recipients averaged 164/157/4.8 and average GPA was 3.94.

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

Program	Eligibility	Award
University Graduate Fellowship¹ (five students)	Available to outstanding new full-time PhD 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 2020 and Spring 2021 (\$30,000 per academic year). These recipients will also receive \$2,500 for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 (\$5,000 during the academic year) to maintain the funding threshold.
Black Endowed Graduate Fellowship¹ (three students)	Available to outstanding new full-time MS student.	Provides \$12,500 and tuition for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 (\$25,000 per academic year).
Bunton-Waller Graduate Awards (approximately two students)	Available to outstanding underrepresented new full-time MS and PhD 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. *Year 1 support for both PhD and MS provided by the Graduate School. Year 2 support for both PhD and MS provided by the Program with top-up from the College. For PhD, years 3-5 provided by the Program with additional scholarship from the Graduate School (see new BW funding model distributed January 17, 2020).	Masters award provides two semesters grade 14 (minimally), half time stipend and two semesters tuition.* Doctoral award provides two semesters grade 18 (minimally) half time stipend and two semesters full tuition for first year.*
FEGR Stipend Supplements (total of \$75,000 to be awarded)	Available to all qualifying or eligible new MS and PhD students. Stipend Supplements can be used to enable more competitive funding offers for incoming students.	Masters award provides stipend top-up to grade 14, half time assistantship for two semesters. Doctoral award provides stipend top-up to grade 18, half time assistantship for two semesters.
Graham Endowed Awards (four students)	Available to outstanding new full-time MS and PhD students.	Provides \$2,000 for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 (\$4,000 per academic year) and will be paid directly to the students Bursar account.
McKenna Endowed Awards (up to four students)	Available to outstanding full time MS and PhD students. <i>Restricted to students whose area of study relates to environmental stewardship, especially in stream or watershed conservation.</i> Current McKenna award recipients may be considered for renewal, but must be re-nominated for the current year with a one-page progress report included with the nomination materials.	Provides \$2,000 for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 (\$4,000 per academic year) and will be paid directly to the students Bursar account.

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

Status of College Commitments: 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. All college funding commitments are contingent on the student accepting your offer of admission for Fall 2020. **Please inform us (graded@psu.edu) immediately upon confirmation that the offer is accepted or declined.**

Graduate Student Recruiting: A total of approximately \$14,520 in funding is available to cost share 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 the remaining cost.** Programs will be instructed to charge up to \$400 of the actual expenses to a specific budget/fund for accessing these cost-sharing funds. *By accepting these funds, programs are agreeing to submit the necessary expenses and travel reports within two weeks of the visit or the award will be forfeited.* Cost share requests will be accepted on an ongoing basis until funding is expended.