

2021/2022 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 2021/22 academic year, we will utilize the Graduate Awards Tracking System (GRATS) created by the Graduate School to include both CAS and Graduate School Awards. Each of the funding opportunities are designed to enhance the recruitment of high caliber graduate students by strengthening departmental capacity to make competitive offers.

Awarding of the fellowships and awards will be based on academic excellence and thus, the nominee's academic records will 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).

All awards, to include both CAS and Graduate School funding, will be managed through GRATS. The nominees must be advised by CAS faculty. Departments will be responsible for entering their nominations in GRATS (instructions provided below) as appropriate and must upload a one-page Letter of Nomination, written by the department head, as a pdf via the GRATS Nomination Screen. This letter should 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 available through the GRADS system; and
- c. guarantee of second year support, assuming the student is making satisfactory academic progress.

The Graduate School is working diligently to incorporate the Intercollege Graduate Degree Programs (IGDP) into GRATS for the college's consideration; however, at this time, *only* nominations for CAS Graduate Programs can be entered. Huck IGDP students in ECLGY, MCIBS, BGEN, PHSIO, and PLBIO, are *strongly* encouraged to have their nomination submitted through their respective program as funding is provided directly by the Graduate School. If consideration for an IGDP student is desired, please reach out to graded@psu.edu to discuss the situation on a case-by-case basis.

Nominations should be completed and entered into the GRATS no later than **Friday, January 29, 2021**. 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. 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. Reviews will be conducted February 2-5 and decisions will be entered into the GRATS the week of February 8.

Program	Eligibility	Award
University Graduate Fellowship¹	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 \$15,250 and tuition for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 (\$30,500 per academic year). These recipients will also receive \$2,500 for Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 (\$5,000 during the academic year) to maintain the funding threshold.
Black Endowed Graduate Fellowship¹	Available to outstanding new full-time MS student.	Provides \$12,500 and tuition for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 (\$25,000 per academic year).

Bunton-Waller Graduate Awards	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.	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	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	Available to outstanding new full-time MS and PhD students.	Provides \$2,000 for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 (\$4,000 per academic year) and will be paid directly to the student's Bursar account.
McKenna Endowed Awards	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 2021 and Spring 2022 (\$4,000 per academic year) and will be paid directly to the student's Bursar account.
Scarlett Graduate Fellowship in Watershed Stewardship	Available to Full-time MS and PhD students enrolled or planning to enroll in the college. <i>Restricted to students who exhibit academic excellence in water conservation or stewardship.</i>	Provides \$2,000 for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 (\$4,000 per academic year) and will be paid directly to the student's 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. All college funding commitments are contingent on the student accepting your offer of admission for Fall 2021.

Graduate Student Recruiting: Due to COVID restrictions on recruitment travel, a one-time allocation has been provided to purchase 'swag' items for the units to use in their recruiting efforts. Requests for recruitment packages (folders containing college-specific information and 'swag' items) should be sent to graded@psu.edu and will be available on a first-come basis while supplies last.

Entering Nominations into GRADS and GRATS:

- Log into GRADS (<https://secure.gradsch.psu.edu/app/grads/>)
- Select the student you would like to nominate
- Select the Rating/Ranking & Funding tab near the top of the screen
- Click the Nominate Applicant box
- Upload the supporting Letter of Nominations
- Click on the "Submit Nomination" button near the bottom right-hand side of the screen
- Enter GRATS, by clicking on the GRATS link near the top right-hand side of the screen
- Select the pencil icon beside the name of the desired student and enter the awards you wish to nominate the student for consideration. Please note that you may offer more than one award. Some awards will require more than one entry (i.e. covering FA21, SP22, etc.).