

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences **2021-2022 Graduate Fellowship Competition Guidelines**

The Ohio State University is one of the world's best public research universities, offering about 280 graduate study programs in all. The Ohio State University Graduate School, the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES), and other entities at Ohio State offer various types of graduate funding to support graduate programs across the university. This document provides an overview of the college-managed fellowships (including those administered by the Graduate School, but allocated through the college).

College-Level Competitions

Director's Fellowship

This award is offered to recruit the very best graduate students studying food or agricultural research. We anticipate awarding 4 Director's Fellowships in 2021.

Diversity Fellowship

This award is designed to help CFAES graduate programs recruit highly qualified students from underrepresented backgrounds. We anticipate awarding 2 (potentially up to 4) Diversity Fellowships in 2021.

Environmental Fellowship

This award is offered to recruit the very best graduate students studying environmental science. We anticipate awarding up to 6 Environmental Fellowships in 2021. Environmental Science is broadly defined here and includes direct assessment of environmental conditions as well as the impact of agricultural and food production on the environment

I. Eligibility

Awards are open to new students seeking to start an M.S. or Ph.D. program at The Ohio State University, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. All fellowship competitions are open to students studying within any CFAES-affiliated department (including domestic and international students). The prospective faculty advisor must hold either a CFAES or OARDC appointment and this should be specified in the letter of nomination. As a requirement for eligibility, programs must clearly justify why the nominee is being put forward for the respective college-level competition category.

II. Duration of Appointment

Fellowships will be limited to one-year of funding. Appointments for M. S. and Ph. D. students will typically be for 9-months, however appointments may be made at the department's discretion. Funds to support the awards will be available on July 1, 2021. Note that if a University Fellowship is received, college-level awards can be deferred until the following year. If a department award is received, the college award is to be used first and the department award deferred until the following year.

III. Stipend

The stipend for the college fellowships will total \$26,316 per award, regardless of appointment type, and includes a standard tuition and fee waiver. For 9-month appointments, students should expect to receive a stipend of \$2,924/ month (less deductions for certain fees such as Student Activity, Recreational, Student Union Facility, COTA Bus Service, remaining health insurance, and Student Legal Services, and Program Fees). Due to the increase in minimum stipend rate at the University for 21-22, we do request that departments using 12-month appointments partially supplement summer pay so that all students are making at least \$2,364/ month.

IV. Nomination Procedures

Each department/ program will be permitted to submit up to 2 nominations for each college-level competition (Director's, Diversity, Environmental). Though programs can nominate students for multiple competitions, students will only be awarded one college-level Fellowship. For this reason, we strongly encourage you to nominate your top students within each category and discourage the same nominations for each competition. Program or faculty must also commit to remaining years of funding (up to 2 years for a MS or up to 5 years for a PhD). The remaining years can be covered by a GRA or GTA at the department's discretion.

Graduate Program Coordinators for each program should nominate students by electronic submission at oardc.ohio-state.edu/competitions **on or before 5:00pm Monday, January 25, 2021**. Note that programs are permitted to submit nomination packets to CFAES in the order required by the OSU Graduate School Fellowships.

The nomination packet must include:

- a. Nomination cover page.
- b. The OSU Admissions Application Worksheet Form.
- c. College transcript(s) from OSU and previous institution(s). A GPA of 3.6 or higher (on a scale of 4) is required. If a program would like to nominate an outstanding student not meeting this GPA requirement, the program must include a brief explanation as to why this student is being nominated. Each program will be permitted 2 GPA waivers for use across college-level competitions. To use a GPA waiver, you will need to email [Kayla Arnold](mailto:Kayla.Arnold@osu.edu) prior to the nomination deadline and receive pre-approval to nominate the student. You will include this pre-approval email with the full nomination packet.
- d. A curriculum vitae outlining the applicant's educational training, relevant work experiences, honors, and other evidence of scholarly productivity and performance (e.g. publications) is recommended.
- e. A personal statement from the nominee describing their research and professional goals (up to two-pages, typed, single spaced).
- f. A letter of support from the prospective faculty advisor or graduate studies chair. This letter should:
 - i. Confirm that the prospective faculty advisor holds a CFAES or OARDC appointment.
 - ii. Address the nominee's academic quality and potential for success in graduate school.

- iii. Address the nominee's likelihood of acceptance. For example, provide 2-4 sentences summarizing the department's interaction with the nominee, participation in prospective student events or visits, as well as any evidence of likelihood of acceptance or level of interest in your program.
- iv. Demonstrate why the nominee is considered outstanding within the particular fellowship competition category. All fellowship competitions are open to students studying within any CFAES-affiliated department. **These competition categories are to be interpreted broadly and it is the responsibility of the nominating graduate program to demonstrate how the nominee fits into the specified category.**
 - Director's – How does the nominee's research contribute to the advancement of the college's mission, specifically with relation to food or agricultural sciences?
 - Diversity – How does the nominee contribute to the advancement of diversity within the program, college, and/or research field?
 - Environmental – How does the nominee's research contribute to the advancement of environmental sciences?
- g. Three letters of recommendation.
- h. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are optional.

V. Review Procedures

Nominations will be evaluated by a review committee appointed by the CFAES Office for Research and Graduate Education. The target date for a final announcement of the awards is approximately February 15, 2021.

VI. Strategy

Fellowships managed by the Office of Research and Graduate Education will generally be used to recruit the strongest students while supporting the goal to increase diversity within CFAES graduate programs. To ensure that students can complete their graduate degrees, program or faculty must commit to the remaining years of funding as cited under nomination procedures. Awardees will be selected based on how well their proposed studies align with the fellowship competition they are nominated for, the academic merit of the nominee, notable skills and experiences, qualities that are associated with success in graduate school (such as resilience and motivation), and the likelihood the student will enroll at Ohio State.

It is important to note that our top choices for these Fellowships will often evaluate opportunities elsewhere. Consequently, this fellowship program must be coupled with an aggressive recruitment of top candidates. For this reason, we ask that you please nominate students for Graduate School Fellowships who are likely to accept an offer of admission. For example, students who have a strong connection with a department or faculty member. We strongly encourage programs to interact regularly with prospective recruits, as this will increase the likelihood of them accepting an offer. Further, improving our overall award acceptance rates will help us to increase our allocation of Graduate School awards, such as the College Allocated Fellowships.

Questions? Please contact Kayla Arnold (arnold.1065@osu.edu) or Gary Pierzynski (pierzynski.3@osu.edu).

College-Managed University Competitions

Early Offer Inclusive Excellence Fellowship (EOIE)

These fellowships were created using a subset of the Graduate School's College Allocated Fellowship (CAF) pool to enhance the diversity of our graduate student body. There is 1 EOIE Fellowship allocated to CFAES for 2021.

Eligibility requirements:

- GPA of 3.6 or higher
- Domestic and DACA students are eligible
- Nominees must be admitted into the graduate program by December 31, 2020 (note, students still have until April 15, 2021 to accept their offers)
- Nominees must comply with the CAF requirements in the [Graduate School's 2020-21 Fellowship Guidelines](#).

Fellowship duration and funding package details:

- Fellowship duration is 1-year, but must be matched with a CAF as required by the Graduate School in 2021. Thus, 1 CFAES CAF is being used to supplement the EOIE.
- Each fellow will receive a stipend in the amount of \$2,193/month, tuition and fees and 85% health insurance subsidy

Additional details:

- Inclusive Excellence awards can be combined with DSP, UF, GE, CAF, and Osmer competition awards.
- Programs may nominate early offer students to the University Fellowship Competition at their discretion.

Nomination procedure:

Each graduate program is permitted to nominate one student who you would consider to be the best candidate to your program. To nominate a student for the EOIE, please send your nominee's application materials with a brief (1-2 paragraph) explanation as to how this student will benefit your program to Kayla Arnold (arnold.1065@osu.edu) by 5pm on December 11. Awardees must be admitted into your graduate program by December 31, 2020.

In our review, we will look at academic achievements, experiences, characteristics associated with success in graduate school (such as resiliency), alignment with our college's mission and goals, and likelihood of offer acceptance. Our office will review nomination materials and decide the recipient by December 22, then provide this information to the Graduate School prior to their December 31, 2020 deadline.

Nomination deadline: December 11, 2020

Award announcements: December 22, 2020

College Allocated Fellowship (CAF)

These fellowships are funded by the Graduate School to allow programs the flexibility to make early offers to help recruit top students. Program allotments as of November 25, 2020 are provided in the table below.

Eligibility requirements: Nominees must comply with the CAF requirements in the [Graduate School's 2020-21 Fellowship Guidelines](#).

Fellowship details:

- Fellowship duration is 1-year
- See [Graduate School's 2020-21 Fellowship Guidelines](#) for additional fellowship details.

Additional details:

- CAF awards can be combined with UF, EOF, EEOF, GE and Osmer competition awards.

Table 1. CAF Program Allotments 2021-22

ACEL	1
AEDE	2
AS	0
Ent	0
SENR	3
FST	1
HCS	0
PP	0
<i>EIOE match</i>	1
Total CFAES allocation	8

2021-2022 Fellowship Overview

2021-2022	Allotment	Stipend (annual/ monthly 12mo) [†]	Citizenship	Fellowship Years	Eligible Programs	Deadline
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Fellowships						
Director's Fellowship (DF)	4	\$26,316/ \$2,193	all	1	MS or PhD	Jan 25
Diversity Fellowship (DIV)	2	\$26,316/ \$2,193	all	1	MS or PhD	Jan 25
Environmental Fellowship (EF)	10	\$26,316/ \$2,193	all	1	MS or PhD	Jan 25
Graduate School Fellowships (managed by CFAES)						
Early Offer Inclusive Excellence Fellowship (EOIE)	1	\$26,316/ \$2,193	U.S. citizen or Permanent resident	2*	MS or PhD	Dec 11
Graduate School College Allocated Fellowship (CAF)	8	\$26,316/ \$2,193	all	1-2**	MS or PhD	Feb 15

**In 2021, the Graduate School Early Offer Inclusive Excellence Fellowship must be matched with a college allocated fellowship (required by the Graduate School), thus it is essentially a 2-year award.*

***Number of CAFs per program is determined annually by a historical formula. Table 1 is provided above with anticipated CAF allocations for 2021. As mentioned above, the EOIE is required to be matched with a CAF in 2021.*

[†]Monthly stipend amounts indicated do not include deductions for other student fees (Student Activity, Recreational, Student Union Facility, COTA Bus Service, remaining health insurance, and Student Legal Services, and Program Fees). For detailed information about fees, see the Specific Program Tuition and Fee Locator on the [Registrar's](#) website.

2021-2022 Fellowship Calendar

2020	
Early-November	Fellowship announcement and nomination window opens for Early Offer fellowship
Mid-November	Fellowship announcement and nomination window opens for CAF, CGF, DSP* and CBL
December 11	EOIE nomination deadline
December 22	Award announcement for EOIE (college will notify graduate school of winner by December 31 deadline)
2021	
January 21	University awards deadline: UF and GE
January 25	College awards deadline
February 15	Award recipients available to view in nomination system UF, GE, and CAF Awardees announced for college-level fellowships
	CAF nomination deadline
April 15	Nationally agreed upon acceptance deadline for students
	Nomination window closes for all fellowships

Graduate School fellowship stipend rates: <https://gradsch.osu.edu/faculty-staff-resources/fellowship-guidelines/d-1-graduate-school-fellowship-stipends-graduate>

Full fellowship calendar: <https://gradsch.osu.edu/faculty-staff-resources/fellowship-guidelines/f-1-fellowship-calendar-fellowship-calendar>

Fellowship guidelines: <https://gradsch.osu.edu/faculty-staff-resources/fellowship-guidelines>