Diversity Associateship

The Ohio State University is one of the world’s best public research universities, offering about 280 graduate study programs in all. The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) offers 23 of those programs through its academic departments, interdisciplinary programs, and School of Environment and Natural Resources.

Research is a key component of graduate education. CFAES translates cutting edge research to stakeholders across the state. By engaging with our stakeholders, we provide research, technology, and knowledge to support safe, sustainable, and viable agricultural practices across Ohio and the world.

As a land-grant university, we strive to recruit top students with diverse backgrounds in order to solve the grand challenges of the future. This graduate award is to recruit the very best graduate students from diverse backgrounds studying agricultural research. Up to two (2) Diversity Associateships will be awarded in 2020.

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.

I. Eligibility

Awards are open to students seeking to start an M.S. or Ph.D. program at The Ohio State University, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences who contribute to diversity in the graduate program. Traditionally diverse, underrepresented groups include (but are not limited to) African Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. Other diverse groups may include those who identify as LGBTQ+, specific gender identities, or others, depending on your graduate program.

For the purposes of this award, the nominating graduate program must provide a narrative describing how the nominee contributes to a diverse graduate student body in a manner that supports excellence in graduate education for their graduate program. The prospective faculty advisor must also hold an OARDC appointment.

II. Duration of Appointment

Duration of the Associateship will follow departmental (or school) guidelines. This Associateship will be limited to one-year of funding for M. S. and Ph.D. students. Funds to support the awards will be available on July 1, 2020. Note that if an OSU Fellowship is received, the Diversity Associateship can be deferred until the following year. If a department award is received, the Diversity Associateship is to be used first and the department award deferred until the following year.
III. **Stipend**
The award will total $23,300 for one-year for M.S. candidates, or $25,300 for one-year for Ph.D. candidates, including any applicable tuition and fees. Awardees must carry a minimum of 12 graduate credit hours per semester and may not hold other appointments during the award period. Associateship recipients are not required to perform services as a condition for receiving the stipend awarded during the fellowship year. Responsibilities in subsequent years will be dictated by the source(s) of funding.

IV. **Nomination Guidelines**
A program may nominate up to two (2) students for the Diversity Associateship. Although students can be nominated for both the FAES Environmental Fellowship and the college Associateship programs, students will only be permitted one award from one of the programs.

I. **Nomination Procedure**
Graduate Program Coordinators for each program should nominate students by electronic submission at oardc.ohio-state.edu/competitions on or before 5:00pm Thursday, January 23, 2020. 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 3.5 or higher (on a scale of 4) is desirable.

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 student describing his/her research and professional goals (up to two-pages, typed, single spaced). The student’s name should be added to the top of their personal statement.

f. A letter of support from the prospective faculty advisor or graduate studies chair describing how the nominee contributes to a diverse graduate student body in a manner that supports excellence in graduate education for their graduate program. Note the prospective faculty advisor must hold an OARDC appointment and this should be specified in the letter of nomination.

g. Three letters of recommendation.

h. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are optional.

II. **Evaluation Procedure**
Nominations will be evaluated by an Associateship Committee appointed by the CFAES Office for Research and Graduate Education. The target date for a final announcement for the awards is approximately **February 17, 2020**.

Please contact Kayla Arnold, CFAES Graduate Education Coordinator, with any questions.
Nomination Cover Page
Diversity Associateship Program

Nominating Graduate Program: ____________________________________________

Nominee: ______________________________________________________________________

Requested Degree: _____ M.S. _____ Ph.D.

Probable Faculty Advisor: ________________________________________________

By the published deadline, this nomination must be electronically uploaded as one pdf document
and contain the following materials to be considered complete. Nominations with missing
documents will not be considered for awards.

_____ Nomination Cover Page

_____ OSU Admissions Application Worksheet Form

_____ College transcripts - OSU and previous institution(s)

_____ A curriculum vitae for the applicant

_____ Personal statement by the student (up to two-pages, typed, single spaced) describing his/her research and professional goals and research accomplishments

_____ Letter from prospective faculty advisor or graduate studies chair addressing how student address diversity in the graduate program and how student’s research supports the College’s Grand Challenges

_____ Three (3) letters of recommendation

_____ Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are optional

_____ Combine documents into one pdf and upload to oardc.ohio-state.edu/competitions