

## College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences 2023-2024 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, agricultural, or environmental research. We anticipate awarding up to 6 Director's Fellowships in 2023.

#### Diversity Fellowship

This award is designed to help CFAES graduate programs recruit highly qualified students from underrepresented backgrounds. We anticipate awarding up to 6 Diversity Fellowships in 2023.

#### TOP International Fellowship

The Ohio Program (TOP) is an international exchange program under College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences founded in 1979. TOP promotes global opportunities for international students and young farmers to obtain practical on-the-job training in the U.S. After years of development, TOP has set up long-term collaborations with hundreds of companies and provides over 430 internships per year.

The TOP International Fellowship is offered to recruit current or previous interns of TOP. We anticipate awarding up to 1 International Fellowship in 2023. Note that current or previous TOP interns who apply for graduate studies in CFAES can be nominated for any of the CFAES fellowships.

#### 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.

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.

**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 12-month appointments may be made at the department's discretion. Funds to support the awards will be available on July 1, 2023. Note that if a University Fellowship is received, college-level awards can be deferred until the following year (for a maximum of 2 years). 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 \$30,420 per award, regardless of appointment type, and includes a standard tuition and fee waiver. For a 12-month appointment, students should expect to receive \$2,535/ 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).

**IV. Nomination Procedures**

Each department/ program will be permitted to submit up to 3 nominations for each college-level competition. Due to the limited number of awards, programs will only be eligible to receive a maximum of 2 awards for the Director's competition, 2 awards for the Diversity competition, and 1 TOP Fellowship.

Though programs can nominate students for multiple competitions, students will only be awarded one college-level Fellowship from the Director's, Diversity, or TOP Fellowship competitions. For this reason, we strongly encourage you to nominate your student(s) for the category that fits best, rather than nominating them to multiple competitions (between Director's and Diversity).

Graduate Program Coordinators for each program should nominate students by electronic submission at [annualconference.cfaes.osu.edu/competitions](https://annualconference.cfaes.osu.edu/competitions) **on or before 5:00pm Friday, January 27, 2023**. 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 for the Director's and International Fellowships, while a 3.2 GPA or higher is required for the Diversity Fellowship. If a program would like to nominate an outstanding student not meeting the GPA requirement for the respective award, 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.
- 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 three-pages, typed, single spaced). Any text over 3 pages will be removed prior to committee review of nominations.
- 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. **For the Director's and Diversity Fellowships**, please 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?
  - v. **For the TOP International Fellowship**, please include the year that the student participated in TOP. We will need to verify participation for nominees to be eligible.
- g. Three letters of recommendation.
- h. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are optional. If they are included, they will not factor into the review.

## **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 21, 2023.

## **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-Allotted Fellowships (CAF).

**Questions?** Please contact Kayla Arnold ([arnold.1065@osu.edu](mailto:arnold.1065@osu.edu)) or Gary Pierzynski ([pierzynski.3@osu.edu](mailto:pierzynski.3@osu.edu)).

## College Allotted Fellowship (CAF)

These fellowships are funded by the Graduate School to allow programs the flexibility to make early offers to help recruit top students. The Graduate School determines the number of College-Allotted Fellowship awards that each college will receive. This number is based on the average number of University Fellowships (UF) and General Enrichment (GE) fellowship awards won by the college’s graduate programs during the last five-year period. Fellowships are then distributed to CFAES graduate programs based on a historical college formula. Program allotments for 2023 are provided in the table below.

Eligibility requirements: Nominees must comply with the CAF requirements in the [Graduate School’s current Fellowship Guidelines](#).

Fellowship details:

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

Additional details:

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

**Nomination Deadline:** April 17, 2023

**Table 1. CAF Program Allotments 2023-24**

ACEL	0
AEDE	1
AS	1
Ent	1
SENR	3
FST	0
HCS	1
PP	1
<i>EIOE match</i>	1
Total CFAES allocation	9

## College-Managed University Competitions

### Early Offer Inclusive Excellence Fellowship (EOIE)

These fellowships were created using a subset of the Graduate School's College Allotted Fellowship (CAF) pool to enhance the diversity of our graduate student body. CFAES will receive 1 EOIE Fellowship for 2023-2024, in addition to one CAF match, thus there will be 2 EOIE fellowships awarded.

Eligibility requirements:

- GPA of 3.6 or higher
- Seeking a PhD
- Domestic and DACA students are eligible
- Nominees must be admitted into the graduate program by December 30, 2022 (note, students still have until April 15, 2022 to accept their offers)
- Nominees must comply with the General Enrichment Fellowship requirements in the [Graduate School's current Fellowship Guidelines](#).

Fellowship duration and funding package details:

- Fellowship duration is 1-year
- Each fellow will receive a stipend in the amount of \$2,535/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 admission materials (i.e. transcripts, letters of support, personal statement, etc.) with a brief (1-2 paragraph) explanation as to how this student will benefit your program to Kayla Arnold ([arnold.1065@osu.edu](mailto:arnold.1065@osu.edu)) by 5pm on December 9. **Awardees must be admitted into your graduate program by January 10, 2023.**

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 aided by a select group of graduate faculty will review nomination materials and decide the recipient by December 23. The Office for Research and Graduate Education will then provide this information to the Graduate School prior to their January 10, 2023 deadline.

**Nomination deadline:** December 15, 2022

**Award announcements:** On or before January 5, 2023

## **ENGIE-Axium Scholarships**

ENGIE North America and Axium Infrastructure (ENGIE-Axium) are world leaders in energy services and sustainability. Sustainability refers to the improvement of the well-being of people and communities in ways that protect the earth's life support systems by reducing environmental impacts, enhancing resource efficiency and ensuring economic prosperity for all. Sustainability includes consideration of human health and well-being in the context of changing environmental conditions and a focus on applied solutions, including innovations in technology, policies, and actions. Full guidelines: <https://gradsch.osu.edu/faculty-staff-resources/engie-axium-graduate-fellowship-and-scholarship-guidelines>

### **Incentive Recruitment (EA-IRS)**

The EA-IRS is a special incentive scholarship (\$5,000) for graduate or professional students seeking to study or work in sustainability. It can be used to augment current recruitment packages to attract the most sought-after students requiring stronger financial incentives to attract them to Ohio State. This incentive can be used at the program's discretion to supplement the stipend or to provide research funds specifically for that student.

Eligibility requirements:

- GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Students of all nationalities are eligible
- Nominees must be new to the graduate program in the semester for which they are being nominated. Both MS and PhD students are eligible.

### **Curricular Practical Training (EA-CPT)**

The EA-CPT program provides \$5,000 to graduate or professional students seeking to study or work in Sustainability as part of their graduate curriculum.

Eligibility requirements:

- GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Students of all nationalities are eligible
- Students can be in any year of their program of study and must have less than the minimum stipend of funding for the semester. For instance students may be under-funded (below the minimum stipend/mo) for the semester in which the EA-CPT is requested, or request funding for work that is essential to their dissertation or thesis but for which they have no financial support. Total support, including the EA-CPT cannot exceed the minimum stipend level.
- Previous EA-CPT awardees are not eligible for a second award.

**Nomination deadline:** January 25, 2023

**Award announcements:** February 24, 2023

## 2023-2024 Fellowship Overview

	Allotment	Stipend (annual/ monthly 12mo) <sup>†</sup>	Citizenship	GPA	Fellowship Years	Eligible Programs	Deadline
<b>College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Fellowships</b>							
<b>Director's Fellowship (DF)</b>	6	\$30,420/ \$2,535	all	3.6	1	MS or PhD	Jan 27
<b>Diversity Fellowship (DV)</b>	6	\$30,420/ \$2,535	all	3.2	1	MS or PhD	Jan 27
<b>The Ohio Program International Fellowship (TOP)</b>	1	\$30,420/ \$2,535	all	3.6	1	MS or PhD	Jan 27
<b>Graduate School Fellowships (managed by CFAES)</b>							
<b>Early Offer Inclusive Excellence Fellowship (EOIE)</b>	1	\$30,420/ \$2,535	U.S. citizen or Permanent resident	3.6	1	PhD	Dec 15
<b>Graduate School College Allotted Fellowship (CAF)</b>	9**	\$30,420/ \$2,535	all	3.6	1-2	MS or PhD	Apr 17
<b>ENGIE-Axium Incentive Recruitment Scholarship (EA-IRS)</b>	5	\$5,000 scholarship	all	3.5	-	MS or PhD	Jan 25
<b>ENGIE-Axium Curricular Practical Training Scholarship (EA-CPT)</b>	1	\$5,000 scholarship	all	3.5	-	MS or PhD	Jan 25
<b>University Fellowships (managed by Graduate School)</b>							
<b>University Fellowship</b>	NA	\$30,420/ \$2,535	all	3.6		MS or PhD	Jan 25
<b>General Enrichment Fellowship</b>	NA	\$30,420/ \$2,535	U.S. citizen	3.2		Terminal MS or PhD	Jan 25
<b>Osmer Fellowship</b>	NA	\$30,420/ \$2,535	U.S. citizen or Permanent resident			PhD	Jan 25

\*The Graduate School Early Offer Inclusive Excellence Fellowship must be matched with a college allotted fellowship (required by the Graduate School)

\*\*Number of CAFs per program is determined annually by a historical formula. Table 1 is provided above with anticipated CAF allocations for 2023. As mentioned above, the EOIE is required to be matched with a CAF, thus we have 2 EOIE and 8 CAF in 2023.

†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.

## Fellowship Competition Calendar

2022	
Early-October	Fellowship announcement and nomination window opens for EOIE
November 28	Nomination system opens for UF/GE/Osmer/ENGIE-Axium/CAF
December 14	EOIE nomination internal deadline
2023	
January 5	Award announcement for EOIE (college will notify graduate school of winner by January 10, 2023 deadline)
January 25	University awards deadline: UF, GE, and EA
January 27	College awards deadline
February 20	Anticipated announcement of CFAES awards
February 24	Award recipients available to view in nomination system UF, GE, and CAF Awardees announced for college-level fellowships
April 15	Nationally agreed upon acceptance deadline for students
April 17	CAF nomination deadline

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/fellowship-guidelines-0>