

Excellence Fellowship – FY 18

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

The College will award Excellence Fellowships matched with departmental assistantships. The goal is to recruit and matriculate top quality PhD graduate students or MS (thesis option) graduate students with a career objective to pursue a PhD, especially students that add diversity to our graduate program. The nominee must be a first-time admit for Fall 2017.

College Excellence Fellowship

- 1/2 match @ Dept base +10%; tuition and insurance if needed, 1st year

Departmental Assistantship

- 1/2 match @ Dept base +10%, 1st year

Selection and Criteria

- Awards will be made on a competitive basis using an evaluation rubric that considers:
 - **Grades and test scores** (weight 40%)
 - **Academics** (weight 15%):
Based on: University or program attended clarity of career objectives, PhD candidate or commitment to pursue a PhD, class rank, academic awards and honors, etc. This is your impression of the overall academic training and potential of the student
 - **High Impact Experiential Learning** (weight 20%)
Based on: research experience (REU, honors research, graduate research, independent study, etc.) study abroad, internships, special projects, etc. Emphasis is on independent research experience that resulted in presentations, posters, abstracts, publications, etc...
 - **Demonstrated leadership, contribution to College diversity, intangibles that formulated your strong support, etc.** (weight 15%)
Based on: leadership experience, involvement in societies/organizations, within and beyond department/university (ex. clubs, scientific societies, officer), contribution to diversity in the college, life intangibles, etc.
 - **Strength of letters of recommendation** (weight 10%):
Indicate overall strength of the letters of recommendation. If possible, indicate overall quantitative (ex. top1%, top quartile, etc.) or qualitative ranking (ex. best, above average, etc.).
- Preference will be given to Ph.D. students, or Master of Science (thesis option) students who have declared a career objective to pursue a Ph.D.
- The student will be asked to accept the Fellowship within 2 weeks after receiving the offer. However, time extensions will be granted if needed, until March 15 at the latest.

Deadline:

- Applications will be accepted through February 17, and then selections will be made.
- After February 17, applications will be screening on a weekly basis. For truly outstanding applicants, decisions may be made in a timelier manner.
- Departments can submit College Merit Fellowship applicants that were not selected. Simply, resubmit the College Merit Fellowship form for the Excellence Fellowship
- Applications will be accepted until funds are exhausted.

Nomination Packet should include:

1. Complete the Nominating Cover Form
2. Complete the one page nominating statement from the Department or Faculty Advisor
3. Complete the Scoring Rubric