Excellence Fellowship – FY 15
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

The College will award Excellence Fellowships to cover ½ of the departmental base assistantship for the first year. The goal is to recruit and matriculate top quality MS and PhD graduate students, especially students that add diversity to our graduate program. The nominee must be accepted for Fall 2014 admission or will be accepted if funding is approved, but not is yet to be enrolled.

College Fellowship
• The Excellence Fellowship will be at one-half of the departmental base assistantship rate and is for one year.

Departmental Assistantship
• The department will supply a 1/2-time effort assistantship written at half the departmental base assistantship rate, with a minimum of $7,600 per year.

Selection and Criteria
• Awards will be made on a competitive basis using an evaluation rubric that considers:
  o Grades and test scores (weight 40%)
  o 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.
  o High Impact Experiential Learning (weight 15%)
    Based on: research experience (such as REU, honors research, graduate research, laboratory experiences, etc.) study abroad, internships, special projects, etc. Emphasis is placed on presentations, posters, abstracts, publications, etc. as a result of research experiences.
  o Contribution to diversity within the college (weight 20%)
    Indicate how the applicant will contribute diversity to the College as an underrepresented minority (URM). Gender us is not a URM in the College (the College is ~50/50 female/male).
  o 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.

• Screening will be on a weekly basis. For truly outstanding applicants, decisions will be made in a timely manner.

• The student will be asked to accept the Fellowship within 2 weeks after receiving the offer. However, time extensions will be granted if needed.

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

Deadline: Applications accepted until funds are exhausted.