

Merit Fellowship

The College will select and award the Texas A&M University Association of Former Students Merit Fellowships for Fall 2018 (FY19). The goal is to recruit and matriculate top quality PhD graduate students; Master of Science (thesis option) students who have declared a clear career objective to pursue a Ph.D.; and especially students with the potential to make unique and diverse contributions to our graduate program. IDP students must be submitted to the IDP pool.

Merit Fellowship

- The Merit Fellowship will be at the departmental base rate +20% for 1 year (FY19, September 2018-August 2019).
- Plus, approximately \$10,500 to cover the cost of tuition, fees and the graduate student health plan.

Departmental Assistantship in subsequent years.

- Department funds must be a part of a multi-year commitment denoted in offer letters. Department match: a) student pursuing Master degree – department must fund year 2; b) student with master degree pursuing 64-hour PhD – department must fund years 2 and 3; c) student pursuing 96-hour direct to PhD – department must fund years 2, 3 and 4.
- Department match must be same rate as the Merit Fellowship, e.g. department base + 20%.

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.).
- Applicant must be a US citizen or permanent resident.
- Must be a first time graduate student to Texas A&M University for Fall 2018.
- Preference will be given to Ph.D. students; maximum 15% can be allocated to Master of Science (thesis option) students who have declared a clear career objective to pursue a Ph.D.
- Student given until April 15 to accept or deny, but the student will be asked to give a response within 2 weeks, if possible.
- Selection will be made by an ad hoc committee of the Graduate Program Council.

Nomination Packet: Submit one PDF that contains the complete:

1. Nominating Cover Form: Complete Form
2. Nominating Statement: From the Department or Faculty Advisor
3. Rubric: Nominator highlights supporting information in Scoring Rubric
4. Student statement: Attach statement of purpose/career objectives from student's graduate application or from the CV. Do not include CV.

Deadline: February 16, 2018, with weekly evaluations thereafter.

*Email PDF of completed & signed application to:
Dawn Kerstetter at aglsgradinfo@tamu.edu, and copy David Reed, dwreed@tamu.edu*