

### Merit Fellowship

The College will select and award the Texas A&M University Association of Former Students Merit Fellowships for FY20 Fall 2019 admits. 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 the College's graduate program. Nominees must be a first-time graduate student to Texas A&M University for Fall 2019 admission. IDP students must be submitted to the IDP pool.

### Merit Fellowship

- The Merit Fellowship will be at the departmental base rate +20% for year 1 (FY20, September 2019-August 2020).
- Plus, approximately \$12,543 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's degree – department must fund year 2; b) student with master's 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 Merit Fellowship, e.g. dept base + 20%, tuition, fees and insurance.

### 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, department/university (ex. clubs, scientific societies, officer), contribution to diversity in the college, 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, permanent resident or resident alien.
- Selection will be made by an *ad hoc* committee of the Graduate Program Council.
- Must be a first-time graduate student admitted to Texas A&M University for Fall 2019.
- Merit Fellows cannot receive any other large fellowship or assistantship of similar or greater value.
- 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 have until April 15 to accept/deny, but will be asked to respond within 2 weeks, if possible.

**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 15, 2019, with weekly evaluations thereafter.