



## CRITERIA

### Excellence Fellowship FY21

The College will award Excellence Fellowships matched with departmental assistantships. The goal is to recruit and matriculate top quality Ph.D. graduate students or M.S. (thesis option) graduate students with a career objective to pursue a Ph.D., especially students who add diversity to our graduate program. Master’s students currently enrolled at Texas A&M University who have not received a Merit or Excellence Fellowship previously are eligible for nomination for a doctoral Excellence Fellowship.

#### College Excellence Fellowship

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

#### Departmental Assistantship

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

#### Selection and Criteria

- Awards will be made on a competitive basis using an evaluation rubric that considers:
  - **Grades** (weight 20%)
  - **Academics** (weight 25%):  
Based on University or program attended, clarity of career objectives, statement of purpose, Ph.D. candidate or commitment to pursue a Ph.D., 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 25%)  
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** (weight 15%)  
Based on leadership experience, involvement in societies/organizations, within and beyond department/university (e.g. clubs, scientific societies, officer positions), contribution to diversity in the college, life intangibles, etc.
  - **Strength of letters of recommendation** (weight 15%):  
Indicate overall strength of the letters of recommendation. If possible, indicate overall quantitative (e.g. top 1%, top quartile, etc.) or qualitative ranking (e.g. 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 requested until April 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### Deadlines:

- **Applications will be accepted through January 20, 2020**; then selections will be made.
- After January 21<sup>st</sup>, applications will be screened 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; the same person in the department, preferably the Associate Head or Director of Graduate Studies, should score each rubric.