

Merit Fellowship

The College will select and award the Texas A&M University Association of Former Students Merit Fellowships for FY21 Fall 2020 admits. The goal is to recruit and matriculate top quality Ph.D. 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. 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 Merit Fellowship. 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 (FY21, September 2020-August 2021).
- Plus, approximately \$12,724 to cover the cost of tuition, fees and the graduate student health plan.
For 2019-2020 = \$9,991.80 tuition and university fees
\$100.00 college fees
\$2,632.00 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 a Masters degree – department must fund year 2; b) student with Master’s degree pursuing 64-hour Ph.D. – department must fund years 2-4; c) student pursuing 96-hour direct to Ph.D. – department must fund years 2-4.
- Department match must be at 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** (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, etc.** (weight 15%)
Based on leadership experience and involvement in societies/organizations, department/university (e.g. clubs, scientific societies, officer positions), contribution to diversity in the college, 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.).
- Applicant must be a US citizen, permanent resident or resident alien.
- Selection will be made by an *ad hoc* committee of the COALS Graduate Program Council.
- Must be a first-time graduate student admitted to Texas A&M University for Fall 2020.
- 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 the student’s graduate application or from the CV. Do not include CV.

Deadline: 12 Noon on January 13, 2020, with biweekly evaluations thereafter.

Email PDF of completed & signed application to:
aglsgradinfo@tamu.edu and jnorgaard@tamu.edu