

Merit Fellowship

The College will select and award the Texas A&M University Merit Fellowships for FY22 (for admission Fall 2021). The goal is to recruit and matriculate the highest quality Ph.D. and MS (thesis option) students who have declared a clear career objective to pursue a Ph.D. Fellows will have the potential to make unique and diverse contributions to the College’s graduate programs. Master’s students currently enrolled at Texas A&M University who have not received a Merit or Excellence Fellowship previously may be nominated for a doctoral Merit Fellowship. Applications for outstanding IDP nominees must be submitted to the IDP pool. The offer letter must designate the recipient as a “Texas A&M University Merit Fellow”. Fellowship recipients must be enrolled full time (9 hrs fall and spring, 6 hrs summer). Fellows are required to attend the New Fellow’s Socials in the Fall and Spring semesters of their first year.

Merit Fellowship

Funds must be a part of a multi-year commitment denoted in offer letters. Year 1 includes a fellowship, tuition and required fees, and insurance reimbursement.

- For Ph.D. students, the fellowship will be at least \$30,000. If the department’s base stipend is \$30,000 or higher, the Merit Fellow stipend will be at least 10% higher than the base stipend. Years 2-4 include an assistantship at same amount as the first-year fellowship, tuition and required fees, and insurance.
- For Master students, the fellowship will be at least \$20,000. If the department’s base stipend is \$20,000 or higher, the Merit Fellow stipend will be at least 10% higher than the base stipend. Year 2 includes 0.5 FTE assistantship at same amount as first-year fellowship, tuition and required fees, and insurance.

For year 1, the award will include ~\$13,335 for tuition, required fees, and insurance reimbursement

\$10,235 tuition and university fees
\$100 college fee
\$2,999 graduate student health plan

Departmental Assistantship in subsequent years

Department funds must be a part of a multi-year commitment denoted in offer letter. Years 2-4 for Ph.D. students will include a 0.5 FTE assistantship at same amount as first-year fellowship, tuition and required fees, and insurance. Year 2 for M.S. students includes 0.5 FTE assistantship at same amount as first-year fellowship, tuition and required fees, and insurance. Department match: a) student pursuing a Master degree – department must fund year 2; b) student with Master 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.

Selection and Criteria

Awards will be made on a competitive basis using an evaluation rubric that considers:

- **Grades** (weight 20%)
- **Academics** (weight 30%): Based on University or program nominee attended, clarity of career objectives, statement of purpose, commitment to pursue a Ph.D., class rank, academic awards and honors, etc. This reflects your impression of the overall academic training and potential of the student.
- **High Impact Experiential Learning** (weight 25%): Based on research experiences (REU, honors research, graduate research, independent study, etc.), study abroad, internships, special projects, etc. Emphasis is on independent research experiences that resulted in presentations, posters, abstracts, publications, etc.
- **Demonstrated Leadership, Contribution to College Diversity, other attributes that formulate your strong support** (weight 15%): Based on leadership experiences, involvement in societies, organizations, department/university (e.g., clubs, scientific societies, officer positions), contribution to diversity in the college, other attributes.
- **Strength of letters of recommendation** (weight 10%): Based on strength of letters of recommendation. 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 M.S. thesis option or Ph.D. graduate student admitted to Texas A&M University for Fall 2021.
- Merit Fellows cannot receive another large fellowship or assistantship of similar or greater value.
- Preference will be given to Ph.D. students; maximum of 15% will be allocated to MS (thesis option) awards.
- Student have until April 15 to accept/decline, but will be asked to respond within 2 weeks, if possible.

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

ENHANCING GRADUATE PROGRAM MERIT
“Recruit and Matriculate the Best”

Nomination Packet: Submit a single PDF that contains:

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.**

Due date: February 1, 2021.