TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
College of Agriculture
& Life Sciences

# Criteria

## Dow-AGLS Graduate Assistantship in Plant Protection

**for current thesis option MS graduate students performing research related to Plant Protection**

The **Dow-AGLS Graduate Assistantship in Plant Protection** provides financial support for the research training of exceptional Thesis-Option Masters students, regardless of nationality, in the second year of their graduate studies. The topic of the research conducted by the successful applicant is related to Plant Protection. The research must be conducted in the state of Texas. First-year thesis-option Master's students who matriculated in the previous fall semester may apply in the spring of their first year. Recipients of the Dow-AGLS assistantship are selected in late spring, with support beginning at the start of the Fall 2025 semester. The assistantship provides full support for three semesters (12 months) in the first year of the award. Requests for tuition and fee support in the following year will be considered. Conference registration fees for recipients presenting at the Texas Plant Protection Association Conference are provided once during the award duration. Recipients are selected by a committee appointed by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. All criteria must be met by the applicant for her/his application to be considered.

**Assistantship**

The **Dow-AGLS Graduate Assistantship in Plant Protection** provides a $30,000 stipend ($2,500/month) for one year, reimbursement of the cost for graduate student health insurance, if requested, and resident tuition and required fees for up to 24 credit hours (9 Fall, 9 Spring, and 6 Summer). Requests for resident tuition and fee support, up to 24 credit hours (9 Fall, 9 Spring, and 6 Summer), for the following year will be considered when accompanied by a progress report and a letter from the recipient's faculty advisor demonstrating outstanding research progress and need. Fellows must provide an updated CV and a summary of accomplishments at the end of each year during the Fellowship period. Support from the Assistantship cannot be used to defray travel or expenses related to the student's MS research. Support for tuition and required University and college fees does not include distance education or program fees.

**Selection and Criteria**

1. The applicant must be a full-time thesis-option Master's graduate student in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
2. Applications will be evaluated based on grades in undergraduate and graduate coursework, past experiences, demonstration of the relationship of the research project to plant protection, and the letter of commitment to the project from the faculty advisor.
3. The applicant must demonstrate that her/his research is related to plant protection.
4. The applicant may not be employed on another full assistantship or the recipient of another full fellowship/scholarship and receive this award.
5. The applicant must be enrolled full-time (9 credit hours fall & spring, 6 hours summer sessions).
6. U.S. and non-U.S. citizens are eligible to apply.
7. To receive this fellowship, the awardee must reside in Texas, either in the Bryan/College Station area or near the AgriLife facility where the committee chair has his/her faculty position.

**Schedule of Call for Applications**

| | |
|---|---|
| Announcement | March |
| Due date (application; progress report) | Late April |
| Notify those selected | Mid-May |
| Assistantship begins | mid-August |

*Complete nomination form here. For questions, please contact Jamie Norgaard, jnorgaard@tamu.edu.*

**FY25 Dow-AGLS Assistantship Scoring Rubric**

**Bachelors Grades** GPA, based on 4.0 scale (weight 10%) _____

**Masters Grades** GPA (at TAMU), based on 4.0 scale (weight 15%) _____

**Career Objectives and Alignment with Graduate Program** (weight 15%)

On a scale of 1 to 10 scale, score = _____

Based on nominee's past experiences, clarity of career objectives and statement of purpose.

| 1-2 | 3-4 | 5-6 | 7-8 | 9-10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| • Did not describe past experiences -career objectives<br><br>-reasons for pursuing graduate degree | • Past experiences, career objectives and/or reasons for pursuing graduate degree not stated clearly | • Past experiences appropriate<br>• Clear career objectives that may benefit from a graduate degree | • Past experiences appropriate<br>• Clear career objectives that require a graduate degree | • Past experiences align well with career objectives<br>• Clear career objectives that align well with the graduate program |

**Relevance of Research Project to Plant Protection** (weight 30%)

On a scale of 1 to 10 scale, score = _____

Based on nominee's explanation of the relevance of the research project to plant protection.

| 1-2 | 3-4 | 5-6 | 7-8 | 9-10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| • Project not related to plant protection | • Relevance of project to plant protection not stated clearly | • Research related to plant protection marginally | • Research related to plant protection | • Research closely related to plant protection |

**Demonstrated Leadership and Other Attributes** (weight 10%)

On a scale of 1 to 10 scale, score = _____

Based on nominee's CV. Consider the nominee's undergraduate research experiences; Consider leadership experiences and involvement in societies, department and university organizations, clubs, etc.

| 1-2 | 3-4 | 5-6 | 7-8 | 9-10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| • No involvement in UG research; No involvement in clubs, societies, organizations, etc. | • Minimal involvement in UG research; active in a few clubs, societies, organizations; in clubs, etc., not related to academics and science | • Some involvement in UG research; Member (not an officer) in multiple clubs, organizations, societies, etc. | • Products from UG research;<br>• Member of multiple clubs, societies, etc.<br>• Officer in one or more clubs, organizations, societies, etc. | • Products from UG research;<br>• Officer, leader, organizer of clubs, societies, organizations, etc. |

**Commitment to the Project from the Faculty Research Advisor** (weight 20%):

On a scale 1 to 10 scale, score = _____

Based on strength of the letter of commitment from the faculty research advisor

| 1-2 | 3-4 | 5-6 | 7-8 | 9-10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| • no commitment to project; poor likelihood of success | • little commitment to project; unsure of likelihood of success | • moderate commitment to project; some likelihood of success | • strong commitment to project; high likelihood of success | • strongest commitment to project; highest likelihood of success |