

Criteria and Rubric

G. Rollie White College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Endowed Master's Graduate Fellowship

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will award the G. Rollie White College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Endowed Graduate Fellowship to exceptional first-time Master of Agriculture (MAg) and Masters (MS) students who intend to pursue a career in an agricultural and/or life science field. The fellowship award is \$10,000. Fellows will be selected by a committee of faculty appointed by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. All criteria must be met in order for a nominee's application to be considered. The fellowship may be renewed for one additional year for awardees in good academic standing with written support from the department or faculty advisor.

Selection and Criteria

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

- **Grades** (weight 20%)
- **Statement of Purpose from the Nominee** (weight 20%): The statement of purpose must indicate the nominee's intended career. The student should address how s/he has prepared for this career path during previous educational and extracurricular activities and how their chosen master's program in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will support their chosen career.
- **Letter of Nomination** (total weight 60%): The letter of nomination from the nominating department or faculty advisor should describe the overall academic training and potential of the nominee, highlighting comments from letters of recommendation where appropriate. The nominating letter should address:
 - A. the nominee's commitment to pursue a career in an agricultural and/or life science field, the pertinence and quality of the nominee's previous education, academic awards and honors, and the clarity of the nominee's career objectives and purpose (weight 20%).
 - B. the nominee's high-impact learning experiences, such as participation in research (REU programs, honors research, undergraduate research, independent study, etc.), study abroad, internships, special projects, etc. Details of independent experiences that resulted in presentations, posters, abstracts, publications, etc., should be emphasized (weight 20%).
 - C. the nominee's leadership experiences (officer positions), involvement in clubs, scientific societies, other organizations (department, university, local, national, international), unique contributions, and any other attributes that inform your strong support for the nominee (weight 20%).
- **CV or resume**: Upload the nominee's up-to-date CV or resume.

Nominee must be a first-time MAg or MS graduate student admitted for Summer or Fall 2026.

The applicant must be enrolled as a full-time MAg or MS student in a graduate program in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

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.

U.S. and non-U.S. citizens may be nominated.

Deadline

- **Applications will be accepted through the AGLS InfoReady Portal until April 20, 2026.**

Complete nomination form [here](#). For questions, please contact Jamie Norgaard, jnorgaard@tamu.edu.

The rubric that the reviewers will use is below. Please make sure the statement of purpose and the letter of nomination address the attributes the reviewers will consider.

FY2026-2027

Reviewers' Rubric

G. Rollie White College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Endowed Masters Graduate Fellowship

(to be completed by the selection committee)

Applicant's Name:

Applications will be evaluated with a scoring rubric using the categories and weights below. GPA will constitute a weight of 20% of the final score.

Write in the applicant's GPA: BS (on 4.0 scale) _____ and MS (if available, on 4.0 scale) _____

The **Statement of Purpose from the Nominee** must indicate the nominee's intended career. The student should address how s/he has prepared for this career path during previous educational and extracurricular activities and how their chosen masters program in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will support their chosen career.

Score: _____ out of 20 points

1-4	4-8	9-12	13-16	17-20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No reference to a career in agriculture or life sciences Reasons for pursuing a graduate degree not discussed No alignment between previous activities and graduate program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career objectives described; may not require a graduate degree No reference to a career in agriculture Possible alignment between previous activities and graduate program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career objectives and reasons for pursuing graduate degree stated but vague Reference to a career in agriculture or life sciences Alignment between previous activities and graduate program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career in agriculture or life sciences and reasons for pursuing graduate degree discussed Alignment between previous activities and graduate program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear career objectives in agriculture or life sciences that align well with the graduate program Strong alignment between previous activities and graduate program

The **Letter of Nomination** written by the nominating department or faculty advisor should describe the academic training and potential of the nominee. A strong nominating letter will address the attributes in A, B, and C below, each worth 20 points (suggested scoring provided in the table below each item).

A. the nominee's commitment to pursue a career in an agricultural and/or life science field, the pertinence and quality of the nominee's previous education, academic awards and honors, the clarity of the nominee's career objectives and purpose.

Score: _____ out of 20 points

1-4	4-8	9-12	13-16	17-20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deficiency in two or more of these areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -career objectives -reasons for pursuing a graduate degree -prerequisite coursework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career objectives and reasons for pursuing graduate degree stated but vague Bachelor degree in a different area, will need remedial coursework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remedial coursework may or may not be needed Career objectives may not require a graduate degree Academic awards and honors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate coursework for grad program Career objectives that require a graduate degree Academic awards and honors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate coursework for graduate program Clear career objectives that align well with the graduate program Academic awards and honors

B. The nominee's high-impact learning experiences, such as participation in research (REU, honors research, previous research, independent study, etc.), study abroad, internships, special projects, etc. Details of independent experiences that resulted in presentations, posters, abstracts, publications, etc., should be emphasized.

Score: _____ out of 20 points

1-4	4-8	9-12	13-16	17-20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacks high-impact experiences; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has had a high-impact experience but it was not 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research experience but not 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent research project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent research

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No publications or presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relevant to graduate program • No publications or presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • independent or REU • Internship, study abroad, etc. • Lacks presentations or publications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral presentation or poster at local/regional meeting • Publications, may or may not be peer-reviewed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • experience (REU, Honors, etc.) • Presentations, oral or poster, at national/intl. conference • peer-reviewed publications
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C. The nominee's leadership experiences (officer positions), involvement in clubs, scientific societies, other organizations (department, university, local, national, international), unique contributions, and any other attributes that inform your strong support for the nominee.

Score: _____ out of 20 points

1-4	4-8	9-12	13-16	17-20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No involvement in clubs, societies, organizations, etc. • Does not bring unique contributions to program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal involvement in clubs, societies, organizations; may be in clubs that are not related to academics • May bring unique contributions to program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member only (not an officer) of multiple clubs, organizations, societies, etc. • May bring unique contributions to program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of multiple clubs, organizations, societies, etc. • Led one or two organizational efforts. • Brings unique contributions to college and program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer, leader, organizer of clubs, societies, organizations, etc. • Led more than two organizational efforts. • Brings unique contributions to college and program.