

## Criteria

### Walter and Wilma Bush GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP

for current thesis option MS graduate students performing agricultural research in East Texas

The **Walter and Wilma Bush Graduate Assistantship** provides financial support for the research training of exceptional Thesis-Option master’s students, regardless of nationality, in their second year of graduate studies. Research should be conducted in the East Texas area and be relevant to agriculture. Recipients of the Walter and Wilma Bush Graduate assistantship are selected in late spring with support beginning on August 16<sup>th</sup> or September 1<sup>st</sup>. The assistantship provides full support for three semesters (12 months) in the first year of the award. Support for tuition and fees only in the following year will be considered. 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 in order for her/his application to be considered.

### Assistantship

The assistantship provides a \$25,000 stipend (\$2083.33/month) for one year, reimbursement of the cost for graduate student health insurance, if requested, and tuition and fees for up to 24 credit hours (9 Fall, 9 Spring, and 6 Summer). Requests for support of tuition and fees in the following year, up to 24 credit hours (9 Fall, 9 Spring, and 6 Summer), will be considered when accompanied by a progress report and a letter from the recipient’s faculty advisor demonstrating outstanding research progress and need. Recipients must provide an updated CV and a summary of accomplishments each year they are supported by the Walter and Wilma Bush Graduate Assistantship. Support from the Assistantship cannot be used to defray travel or expenses related to the student’s dissertation research. Support from the Assistantship will not cover distance education or program fees.

### Selection and Criteria

1. The applicant must be a current first-year full-time thesis-option master’s graduate student in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. New MS students who will matriculate in Fall 2026 are not eligible for this award.
2. Evaluation of applications will be based on grades in undergraduate and graduate coursework, past experiences, demonstration that the applicant’s research project is being performed in the East Texas area and is relevant to agriculture, and a letter of commitment to the project from the faculty advisor.
3. The applicant may not be employed on another full assistantship/fellowship and receive this award.
4. The applicant must be enrolled full-time (9 credit hours fall & spring, 6 hours summer sessions).
5. U.S. and non-U.S. citizens are eligible to apply.

### Schedule of Call for Applications

Announcement	Late March
Deadline	Late April
Notify those selected	Mid May
Assistantship begins	Mid August or September 1 <sup>st</sup>

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