



**Ohio Agricultural Research
and Development Center**

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DATE: January 17, 2012

TO: Chairs, Associate Chairs, Program Heads, School Directors and Graduate Studies
Committee Chairs

FROM: Steven A. Slack, Director

SUBJECT: **2012 Director's Associateship Program**

Important Reminder:

Although applications can be submitted for both the FAES Environmental Fellowship and the OARDC Associateship programs, students will be only permitted one award from one of the programs. In addition, applications for all OARDC awards is limited to 2 applicants per competition for any department or program (Director's, Minority and International awards).

Please Note: this limit does not apply to the Environmental Fellowship Program.

This letter is to announce the 2012 Competition for the OARDC Director's Associateship Program. The goal of this program is to involve the very best graduate students in agricultural research programs at OARDC. Six Associateships will be made available this year with \$18,000/year available from the OARDC to support M.S. students and \$20,000/year for Ph.D. students. The OARDC will provide one-year funding for all awards, including any applicable tuition and fees. Funds to support the awards will be available on July 1, 2012.

Each department or school may submit as many nominations as are eligible according to the guidelines, however, the department must prioritize the submitted nomination list. Depending on the quality of the nominees, a department may receive up to two Associateship awards. In general, students with a GPA above 3.6 on a scale of 4 and a 75th percentile average on the GRE general exam's Verbal and Quantitative components, and a 4.0 on the GRE Analytical Writing component are considered good candidates. These values should be used only as guidelines, because assessment of the nominee's potential will be based on the student's total file including letters of recommendation, the student's statement of future goals, and other evidence of scholarly productivity. Additional details about the criteria for the awards are attached.

We are requesting that prospective faculty advisors submit a letter of support indicating how the associateship's research will support one or more of the College priority areas. From among applicants to the Director's Associateship (six Associateships), Minority Associateships (two Associateships), and the International Associateship (one Associateship) Programs, I am asking that the OARDC Director's Associateship Committee select at least two Associateships from each of the four areas of the FAES ecological pyramid (Social Responsibility, Economic Viability, Production Efficiency and Environmental Compatibility).

Our top choices for these Associateships often decide to attend graduate school elsewhere. Consequently, this Associateship program must be coupled with an aggressive recruitment of top candidates.

Please Note: If an OSU Fellowship is received, the OARDC Associateship can be deferred until the following year. If a department award is received, the OARDC Associateship should be used first and the department award deferred until the following year.

Please circulate this announcement to members of your faculty having OARDC appointments who would have potential applicants. Also, please coordinate with your graduate studies committee or other appropriate group to select and rank your nominees. The Director's Associateship Committee will review the candidates and select the recipients.

Deadline for receipt of nominations will be by **5 p.m., Tuesday, February 21, 2012**. Send seven copies of each nomination to the OARDC Director's Office at either the Wooster or Columbus Campus, attention Steve Slack.

C: Director's Associateship Committee

The Ohio State University
Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center
Director's Associateship Program

Stipend: \$18,000 for one-year for M.S. candidates, \$20,000 for one-year for Ph.D. candidates, including any applicable tuition and fees. Awardees must carry a minimum of 15 graduate credit hours per quarter and may not hold other appointments during the award period. Associateship recipients cannot be required to perform services in return for receiving a stipend.

Duration of Appointment: Duration of the Associateship will follow departmental (or school) guidelines. The contribution to the Associateship from the Director's office will be limited to one-year for M.S. and Ph.D. students. Associateships who do not complete their degree in the two or three year period will continue to be funded as associateships from the normal annual allocations made available by OARDC to academic units in which students are enrolled.

Eligibility: Awards are open to students seeking to start an M.S. or Ph.D. program at The Ohio State University. Students currently enrolled in graduate programs at OSU or those enrolled in classes working toward graduate program requirements are not eligible.

Application Requirements:

1. Nomination Cover Page
2. University transcript(s). A GPA of 3.6 or higher on a scale of 4 is desirable.
3. A Graduate Record Examination is required. A 75th percentile average on the GRE general exam's Verbal and Quantitative components, and a 4.0 on the GRE Analytical Writing component are desirable.
4. Three letters of recommendation.
5. One or two page statement (typed, single spaced) from the student describing his/her research and professional goals and research accomplishments to date.
6. A curriculum vitae outlining the applicant's educational training, relevant work experiences, honors, and other evidence of scholarly productivity and performance (e.g. publications) is recommended.
7. Letter from prospective faculty advisor on how student associateship's research will contribute to one or more of the priority areas listed below.
8. OSU Graduate Admission Form

Nomination and Evaluation Procedures: Graduate Studies Committee from departments (or schools) should nominate students by submitting seven copies of each nomination package to the OARDC Director's Office at either the Columbus or Wooster campus on or before **5 p.m. Tuesday, February 21, 2012**. Departments may submit as many nominations as are eligible according to the guidelines, however, the department must prioritize the submitted nomination list and can receive a maximum of two Associateships per year. The prospective faculty advisor should hold an OARDC appointment and should be specified in the letter of nomination. Also,

the prospective faculty advisor should indicate how the student's research will contribute to one or more of the following priority areas:

1. Social Responsibility
2. Production Efficiency
3. Economic Viability
4. Environmental Compatibility

Nominations will be evaluated by the Director's Associateship Committee. The target date for a final announcement of the awards is approximately **March 26, 2012**.

Nomination Cover Page
OARDC Director's Associateship Program

Nominating Department or School: _____

Nominee: _____

Requested Degree: _____ M.S. _____ Ph.D.

Probable OARDC Faculty Advisor: _____

Checklist: This application contains the following, including this cover page

_____ College transcripts, OSU and previous institution(s)

_____ GRE scores

_____ Three letters of recommendation

_____ One or two-page statement by the student describing his/her research and professional goals and research accomplishments to date

_____ Letter from prospective faculty advisor on how student associateship research will contribute to one or more of the College priority areas.

_____ A curriculum vitae for the applicant