DATE: December 22, 2015

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

FROM: David A. Benfield, Associate Vice President for Agricultural
Administration and Director, Wooster Campus
Jerry Bigham, Interim Associate Dean for Research and Graduate
Education, FAES

SUBJECT: 2016 OARDC International Experience Graduate Research
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 from any department or program (Director’s, Minority
and International awards).
Please Note: this limit does not apply to the Environmental Fellowship Program.

This memorandum announces the continuation of the 2016 Competition for the
OARDC International Experience Graduate Research Associateship program. The
OARDC International Experience Graduate Research Associateship is intended for
domestic students who plan to conduct their thesis or dissertation research abroad. A
total of one award will be available and each department may submit two
nominations according to the guidelines. Nominees must be U.S. citizens.

The sum of $20,000/year for M.S. candidates and $22,000/year for Ph.D. candidates
will be made available. The OARDC will provide one-year funding for all awards,
including any applicable tuition and fees. Funds to support awards will be available
on July 1, 2016.
We are requesting that prospective faculty advisors or graduate studies chairs submit a letter of support indicating how the associateship’s research will support one or more of the College strategic 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 pay close attention to applicants whose research supports one or more of our three strategic areas: Food Security, Production, and Human Health, Environmental Quality and Sustainability and Advanced Bioenergy and Biobased Products.

Please circulate this memorandum to members of your faculty having OARDC appointments who would have potential applicants and coordinate submissions with your graduate studies committee. The Director’s Associateship Committee will review the candidates and select the recipient.

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 is to be used first and the department award deferred until the following year.

Deadline for receipt of nominations by electronic submission at http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/competitions/ will be on or before 5:00 p.m., Sunday, January 31, 2016.
The Ohio State University
Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center

International Experience Graduate Research Associateship

**Purpose:** The OARDC International Experience Graduate Research Associateship is intended for domestic students who plan to conduct their thesis or dissertation research abroad. Students will be co-advised by an OSU faculty member as well as an eligible scientist from the host country. Eligibility of non-OSU scientists to serve as a co-advisor will be determined by the graduate committee of the student’s home department. This program is intended to promote scientific exchange between OSU and the international research community. The student’s research should support one or more of the three strategic areas: Food Security, Production, and Human Health, Environmental Quality and Sustainability and Advanced Bioenergy and Biobased Products. One Associateship will be awarded annually.

**Stipend:** $20,000 for one-year for M.S. candidates, $22,000 for one-year for Ph.D. candidates, including any applicable tuition and fees. Awardees must carry a minimum of 12 graduate credit hours per semester and may not hold other appointments during the award period. Associateship recipients cannot be required to perform services in return for receiving a stipend.

**Eligibility:** Awards are open to students starting an M.S. or Ph.D. program at The Ohio State University. Nominees must be U.S. citizens.

**Application Requirements:****
1. Nomination Cover Page.
2. College 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. Up to a two-page statement (typed, single spaced) from the student describing his/her research and professional goals and research accomplishments to date, as well as interest in participating in international agricultural research. Student’s name should be added to the top of their personal statement.
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 or graduate studies chair on how student associateship research will contribute to one or more of the priority areas listed below.
8. OSU Admissions Application Worksheet Form
Nomination and Evaluation Procedures: Graduate Studies Committee from departments (or schools) should nominate students by electronic submission at http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/competitions on or before 5:00 p.m., Sunday, January 31, 2016. Departments or programs can submit up to two applications but can receive a maximum of one International Associateship 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 or graduate studies chair should indicate how the student’s research will support one or more of the following strategic areas:

1. Food Security, Production, and Human Health
2. Environmental Quality and Sustainability
3. Advanced Bioenergy and Biobased Products

Nominations will be evaluated by the Director’s Associateship Committee. The target date for final announcement of the awards is approximately February 19, 2016.
NOMINATION COVER PAGE
OARDC International Experience Graduate Research Associateship Program

Nominating Department or School: _________________________________

Nominee:  _____________________________________________________

Requested Degree:                   M.S.                  Ph.D.

Is the nominee a U.S. citizen?                  Yes    ______No

Probable OARDC Faculty Advisor:  _________________________________

Checklist:

By the published deadline, this nomination must be electronically uploaded as one pdf document and contain the following materials to be considered complete. **Nominations with missing documents will not be considered for awards.**

_____ Nomination Cover Page

_____ College transcripts, OSU and previous institution(s)

_____ GRE scores

_____ Three letters of recommendation

_____ Up to a two-page statement by the student describing his/her research and professional goals and research accomplishments to date (student’s name should be on top of their statement)

_____ A curriculum vitae for the applicant

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

_____ OSU Admissions Application Worksheet Form

_____ Combine all documents into one pdf and upload to http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/competitions