



Office of the Director

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DATE: December 20, 2016

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

Charles Goebel, Interim Associate Dean for Research and Graduate
Education, FAES

SUBJECT: **2017 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 (Director's and Minority awards) are limited to 2 applicants per competition from any department or program.

Please Note: Environmental Fellowship Program will have a limit of 10 submissions per department or program.

This letter is to announce the 2017 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. FOUR Associateships will be made available this year with \$23,300/year available from the OARDC to support M.S. students and \$25,300/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, 2017.

Each department or school may submit up to two nominations. 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 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 (four Associateships) and Minority Associateships (two Associateships), I am asking that the OARDC Director's Associateship Committee pay close attention to applicants whose research supports one or more of the three strategic areas: Food Security, Production, and Human Health, Environmental Quality and Sustainability and Advanced Bioenergy and Biobased Products.

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 is to 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 and coordinate submissions with your graduate studies committee. The Director's Associateship Committee will review the candidates and select the recipients. The target date for a final announcement of the awards is approximately February 20, 2017.

Deadline for receipt of nominations by electronic submission at <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/competitions/> will be on 5 p.m., Tuesday, January 31, 2017.



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

Stipend: \$23,300 for one-year for M.S. candidates, \$25,300 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.

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.

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 two-page statement (typed, single spaced) from the student describing his/her research and professional goals and research accomplishments to date. 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's 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 PM, Tuesday, January 31, 2017**. Departments can submit up to two applications 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 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 a final announcement of the awards is approximately **February 20, 2017**.



NOMINATION COVER PAGE
OARDC Director's Associateship Program

Nominating Department or School: _____

Nominee: _____

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

Probable OARDC Faculty Advisor: _____

Checklist:

By the published deadline, this nomination must be electronically uploaded as **one pdf document** and contain all 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 two-page statement by the student describing his/her research and professional goals and research accomplishments to date (student's name should be added to the top of their personal 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>