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DATE: January 2, 2018

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

SUBJECT: **2018 FAES Environmental Graduate Research Fellowship Program**

Important:

For 2018, eight (8) FAES Environmental Fellowships will be awarded. 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) are limited to 2 applicants per competition from any department or program. Please Note: Environmental Fellowship Program will have a limit of 6 submissions per department or program.

This letter is to announce the continuation of the 2018 Competition for a FAES Environmental Graduate Research Fellowship Program. The goal of this program is to recruit the very best graduate students to environmental research in FAES. **Up to eight (8) fellowships will be awarded this year** with \$23,300/year available to support M.S. students and \$25,300/year for Ph.D. students. One year of funding for all awards, including any applicable tuition and fees, will be provided. Funds to support the awards will be available on July 1, 2018. Academic units receiving environmental fellowships must agree to continue the support of M.S. students for at least one additional year and Ph.D. students for at least two additional years if satisfactory progress toward completion of the degree is demonstrated.

Each graduate program may submit up to six (6) nominations as are eligible according to the guidelines. Depending on the quality of the nominees, a program or department may receive up to five (5) awards. In general, students with a GPA above 3.6 on a 4.0 scale, 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 strong 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, statement of future goals, and other evidence of scholarly productivity. Additional details about the awards criteria are attached.

Prospective faculty advisors or graduate studies chairs must submit a letter indicating how each candidate's research will support the College's priority emphasis on improving environmental quality.

Our top choices for these fellowships will often evaluate opportunities elsewhere. Consequently, this fellowship program must be coupled with an aggressive recruitment of top candidates.

Only if an OSU Fellowship is also received, this award may be deferred until the following year. If a department award is received, the FAES Fellowship is to be used first and the department award deferred until the following year.

Please circulate this announcement to FAES faculty or faculty having OARDC appointments who would have potential applicants and coordinate with your graduate studies committee(s) to submit nominations. An FAES Environmental Fellowship Committee appointed by the OARDC Director's Office will review the candidates and select recipients. The target date for a final announcement of the awards is approximately February 19, 2018.

Deadline for receipt of nominations by electronic submission at <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/competitions> is on or before 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 31, 2018.



**The Ohio State University
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences
FAES Environmental Graduate Research Fellowships**

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. Fellowship recipients are not required to perform services as a condition for receiving the stipend awarded during the fellowship year. Responsibilities in subsequent years will be dictated by the source(s) of funding.

Duration of Appointment: Fellowship support for each student will be limited to one-year for M.S. and Ph.D. students. The academic units or advisors receiving environmental fellowships must agree to extend GA support for M.S. students for at least one year and Ph.D. students for at least two years at the same stipend rate provided that satisfactory progress toward completion of the degree is demonstrated.

Eligibility: Fellowship awards are open to students seeking to begin 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. 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. A letter from prospective faculty advisor or graduate studies chair on how applicant's research will contribute to enhancing environmental quality. Special consideration will be given to projects directed at issues related to climate change or carbon and water in the earth system.
8. OSU Admissions Application Worksheet Form

Nomination and Evaluation Procedures: Graduate Studies Committees from departments (school) or the Environmental Science Graduate Program should



nominate students by electronic submission at <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/competitions/> on or before 5:00pm Wednesday, January 31, 2018.

Graduate programs may submit up to six (6) nominations as are eligible according to the guidelines given above and may receive up to five (5) of the (8) eight awards offered. The prospective faculty advisor should be in FAES or hold an OARDC appointment.

Nominations will be evaluated by an Environmental Fellowship Committee appointed by the OARDC Director's Office. The target date for a final announcement of the awards is approximately **February 9, 2018.**



NOMINATION COVER PAGE
FAES Environmental Graduate Research Fellowship Program

Nominating Graduate Program: _____

Nominee: _____

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

Probable FAES Faculty Advisor: _____

Checklist:

By the published deadline, this nomination must be electronically uploaded as **one pdf document** & 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 two-page statement by the student describing his/her research and professional goals (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's research will contribute to enhancing environmental quality.
- _____ OSU Admissions Application Worksheet Form
- _____ Combine all documents into **one pdf** and upload to <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/competitions>