Research and Extension Experiential Learning for Undergraduate (REEU) Fellowships

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Research and Extension Experiential Learning for Undergraduate (REEU) Fellowships

QUICK OVERVIEW
What This Section Covers

FIRST: What is NIFA? (Agency)

SECOND: What is AFRI? (Program)

THIRD: What is AFRI’s Education RFA (Portfolio)

FOURTH: What is REEU? (Grant)
The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) provides leadership and funding for food, agricultural, natural resources, and human sciences.

To further this mission, NIFA also provides funding to train the next generation of agricultural researchers.

The agency prioritizes ensuring students from all backgrounds have an opportunity to pursue careers in agricultural and related sciences.

The flagship funding portfolio within NIFA is the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
AFRI is NIFA’s flagship grant program. The grant funds research, education, extension, and integrated grants that address key problems of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of agriculture. There is a special AFRI portfolio for education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm efficiency and profitability</td>
<td>Ranching</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forestry (urban and agroforestry)</td>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural communities/entrepreneurship</td>
<td>Human nutrition/food safety</td>
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AFRI Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative

Professional Development Opportunities for Secondary School Teachers (PD-STEP)

Pre-doctoral Fellowships

Post-doctoral Fellowships

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Who Can Apply for REEU?

- 4-year Colleges and Universities
- 2 or 4-year 1994 Land-Grant Institutions
- 2 or 4-year certified Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities

All proposals should seek to provide experiences to undergraduate students, leading them to careers in the agricultural workforce or to continue their education in graduate school.
The Request for Applications (RFA)

An RFA is your instruction manual for writing a grant

The 2016 RFA was released on January 22, 2016
It is available at http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-food-agriculture-natural-resources-and

This grant will receive many proposals. Reading the RFA and following it carefully is the best thing you can do to achieve funding.

Applications are due March 24, 2016, submitted through Grants.gov by 5 pm EST.
FY16 Research and Extension Experiential Learning for Undergraduate (REEU) Fellowships

PROGRAM GUIDANCE
Major Changes from FY15

• Project Duration Now = up to 4 years
• No Maximum Number of Students served
• Distinct Evaluation Criteria for Undergraduate Fellows
What This Section Covers

• AFRI Foundational or Challenge areas
• Integrated Projects
• Budgeting
• Funding Restrictions
• Prepare a winning application
**AFRI Foundational and Challenge areas**
(Select One or More for a REEU Proposal)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundational Area</th>
<th>Challenge Area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plant health and production and plant products</td>
<td>Climate Variability and Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal health and production and animal products</td>
<td>Childhood Obesity Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food safety, nutrition, and health</td>
<td>Food Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bioenergy, natural resources, and environment</td>
<td>Sustainable Bioenergy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture systems and technology</td>
<td>Water Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture economics and rural communities</td>
<td>Food Security</td>
</tr>
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</table>
What Is An Integrated Project?

Integrated project means a project incorporating at least two of the three functions of the agricultural knowledge system (research, education, and extension) around a problem or activity.
Budgeting: REEU Basics

• Budget may not exceed $300,000 for project periods up to 4 years

• Project costs must be budgeted predominantly for student support:
  • Participant stipends
  • Housing and meals
  • Travel costs
  • Laboratory use fees

• Costs outside of Participant Support must be modest and reasonable

• Indirect costs are not permitted

• Matching: ONLY required if project is commodity specific and not of national scope
Funding Restrictions

- The project director must be from the primary host institution.
- The project director and undergraduate fellows must be citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the United States.
- There are no citizenship requirements for Co-project director.
- Each institution can submit up to three proposals, but will only get one award each year.
- AFRI ELI programs can’t be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility.
How Are Applications Evaluated?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pedagogical Merit of the Application</th>
<th>Qualifications of Project Personnel, Adequacy of Facilities, and Project Management</th>
<th>Project Relevance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Novelty, multidisciplinary innovation,</td>
<td>Roles of key personnel are clearly defined</td>
<td>Evaluation plan is reliable and appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed approach, procedures, or methodologies are appropriate, clearly described and feasible</td>
<td>Evidence that the identified institution has capacity and competence in the proposed area of work</td>
<td>Science-based knowledge and capabilities gained are related to the NIFA foundational and challenge areas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples

Read the RFA carefully for a full evaluation criteria
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HOW TO APPLY
Step 1: Read the Request for Applications

WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV

From BOOTS
Helping Women and Hispanic Vets Earn Ag, STEM Degrees

To ROOTS:
Step 1: Read the Request for Applications

http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-food-agriculture-natural-resources-and

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative

Program: Agriculture and Food Research Initiative | AFRI Education and Literacy Initiative | Educational Scholarship Programs

The AFRI Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative (ELI) provides fellowships to undergraduate, predoctoral, and postdoctoral students in the agricultural sciences.
Step 1: Read the Request for Applications

Hint: Study the evaluation criteria – that’s what panelists will use to judge your application’s merit.

Hint: Details!

Watch formatting: don’t get rejected because your font or line spacing isn’t right.

Make sure you fill in program codes correctly.

Eliminate math errors in budgets and spelling/grammar mistakes in narratives.
Hint’s Continued

• Consider how the fellows you are training would be better prepared to enter the agricultural workforce and/or pursue graduate training than if they did not have the experience.

• Put the same time into developing the extension components of your applications as you do the research.
Where You Apply: WWW.Grants.Gov

Learn Grants
Looking for an introduction to federal grants? LEARN about the grants lifecycle and how policies affect you in the Grants Learning Center at Grants.gov.

Ind Open Grant Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Opportunity Number</th>
<th>Opportunity Title</th>
<th>Agency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W81XWH-17-DMRDP-MID-CSA</td>
<td>DoD Joint Program Committee/Military Infectious Diseases Clinical Study Award</td>
<td>Dept. of the Army -- USAMRAA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W81XWH-17-DMRDP-MID-ARA</td>
<td>DoD Joint Program Committee-2/Military Infectious Diseases Applied Research Award</td>
<td>Dept. of the Army -- USAMRAA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Caution: Grants.Gov

First-Time Applicants: Be Advised:

Grants.gov requires you to have a DUNS and SAM identification. Getting these credentials may take a few months.

If this is your first time applying for a federal grant, make sure your institution is capable of submitting through Grants.gov.

Also, make sure you have the ability to save and create documents as Adobe PDFs. Grants.gov will not process other documents.

Go to the Grants.gov section on organization registration or Grants.gov support for details. Don’t wait until the week applications are due!!
FAQ’s Are Available on our website:

http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-food-agriculture-natural-resources-and
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