



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture



BIOENERGY, CLIMATE,
AND ENVIRONMENT



FOOD PRODUCTION
AND SUSTAINABILITY



YOUTH, FAMILY,
AND COMMUNITY



FOOD SAFETY
AND NUTRITION



INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMS



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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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Education Programs at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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- Multicultural Scholars
- National Needs Graduate Fellowships
- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Education and Literacy Initiative
 - Predoctoral Fellowships
 - Postdoctoral Fellowships
 - Research and Extension Experiential Learning for Undergraduates (REEU)
 - Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Educational Professionals (PD-STEP)



Multicultural Scholars

- Scholarships to support recruiting, engaging, retaining, mentoring, and training committed, eligible multicultural scholars, resulting in either baccalaureate degrees within the food and agricultural sciences disciplines or the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) degree.
- Eligibility: U.S. public or private non-profit colleges/universities that offer Baccalaureate/DVM degree programs in the food & agricultural sciences.
- Total Appropriation = ~\$990,000



Multicultural Scholars

- Available Funding
 - Scholarships: \$6,500 per student per year for up to four years
 - Cost-of-Education Allowance: \$2,500 per student per year (in lieu of indirect costs)
 - Special Experiential Learning: \$4,000 per eligible USDA MSP Scholar
- Award Categories
 - Single Institution: maximum of \$200,000
 - Student Experiential Learning (SEL): maximum of \$20,000



National Needs Fellowships

- To support students' training and completion of master's and/or doctoral degree programs in identified national need areas within the Food, Agricultural, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences
- Eligibility: Colleges & universities having a demonstrable capacity to carry out the teaching of food & agricultural sciences
- Total Appropriation = ~\$3.2 million
- Single Institution: maximum of \$262,500



National Needs Fellowships

- Available Funding
 - Master's Level
 - \$18,500 per year for two years as student stipend
 - \$2,000 per student per year cost-of-education allowance
 - International Study or Thesis/Dissertation Research Travel Allowances (IRTA): \$4,500 per Fellow



National Needs Fellowships

- Available Funding
 - Doctoral Level
 - \$24,500 per year for three years as student stipend
 - \$2,000 per student per year cost-of-education allowance
 - International Study or Thesis/Dissertation Research Travel Allowances (IRTA): \$8,000 per Fellow



Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative (ELI)

- Fellowships to undergraduate students, predoctoral candidates, and postdoctoral scholars
- Professional development opportunities for secondary school teachers and education professionals.
- Approximately \$18.9 million available in funding (FY 2016).



Education and Literacy Initiative (ELI)

Goals

- To promote research and extension experiential learning for undergraduates such that upon graduation they may enter the agriculture workforce with exceptional skills.
- To prepare the next generation of scientists through doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships.
- Provide immersive learning experiences for secondary school educators, enabling them to identify and replicate best practices to enhance student outcomes.



Education and Literacy Initiative (ELI)

Program Area Priority

- Supports Projects that address one or more of the following Foundational Areas:
 - Plant health and production and plant products
 - Animal health and production and animal products
 - Food safety, nutrition, and health
 - Bioenergy, natural resources, and environment
 - Agriculture systems and technology
 - Agriculture economics and rural communities



Education and Literacy Initiative (ELI)

Program Area Priority

- Supports Research, Education, Extension, and/or Integrated Projects that address one or more of the following Challenge Areas:
 - Agricultural and Natural Resources Science for Climate Variability and Change
 - Childhood Obesity Prevention
 - Food Safety
 - Food Security
 - Sustainable Bioenergy
 - Water for Agriculture



Education and Literacy Initiative (ELI)

Eligible institutions include:

- State Agricultural Experiment Stations;
- Colleges and universities, including junior colleges offering associate degrees or higher;
- University research foundations;
- Other research institutions and organizations;
- Federal agencies;
- National laboratories;
- Private organizations or corporations;
- Any group consisting of two or more entities identified in (1) through (7).

Eligible institutions do not include foreign and international organizations.



Education and Literacy Initiative (ELI)

- Awarded fellowships will have:
 - focused research, education, and/or extension objectives aligned with NIFA's Challenge and/or Foundational Program areas
 - well-developed academic experiences
 - productive and interactive **mentoring**
 - appropriate and applicable training activities, so Fellows will be prepared to join the professional workforce



Predoctoral Fellowships

- The individual must have advanced to candidacy, as per institutional requirements, by March 3, 2016.
- Fellows are required to carry out their projects on a full-time basis (i.e. 100% effort).
- Predoctoral Fellowship applications must not exceed \$95,000 total (including institutional allowance) for project periods of up to 2 years.
- Funding Rate = ~17%



Predocctoral Fellowships

- **Proposed Budget Requests**
 - Stipend support (up to \$25,000 per year)
 - Tuition, fees, fringe benefits, supplies, travel, workshops, and publications - up to \$19,500 per year
 - Institutional allowance, in lieu of indirect costs, not to exceed \$3,000 per year



Postdoctoral Fellowships

- All doctoral degree requirements must be satisfied no earlier than January 1, 2013 and no later than December 3, 2016.
- Fellows are required to carry out their projects on a full-time basis (i.e. 100% effort).
- Postdoctoral Fellowship applications must not exceed \$152,000 total (including institutional allowance) for project periods of up to 2 years.
- Funding Rate = ~17%



Postdoctoral Fellowships

- **Proposed Budget Requests**
 - Funds should be requested primarily for salary support, although other expenditures (e.g., fringe benefits, supplies, travel, workshops, and publications) are allowable costs.
 - Expenditures other than salary support may not exceed \$30,000 per year and must be itemized and properly justified.
 - Institutional allowance, in lieu of indirect costs, not to exceed \$3,000 per year.



The Research and Extension Experiential Learning for Undergraduates (REEU) Fellowships

- Fellowship opportunities for undergraduate students at colleges and universities to gain experience by participating in extension projects or programs that deliver science-based knowledge and informal educational programs to people, enabling them to make practical decisions.
- \$300,000 total (including institutional allowance) for project periods of up to 4 years.
- Project costs must be predominantly for student support, which usually includes such items as participant stipends, housing, meals, travel, and laboratory use fees.



Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Educational Professionals (PD-STEP)

- Provide immersive learning experiences for secondary school educators, enabling them to identify and replicate best practices to enhance student outcomes in the FANH sciences.
- Applications must not exceed \$150,000 total for project periods of up to 3 years.
- Funds requested may include, but are not limited to, support for: secondary school professional participant stipends and travel; costs of continuing education units; provider personnel salaries; software; and curricula