2015 USDA-NIFA National Needs Graduate Fellowship (NNF) RFA

eResearch Portal Submission Deadline: August 12, 2015
Research Grant Proposal Deadline: August 19, 2015

The CAES currently has several active NNF projects and we can connect potential applicants with currently funded PIs to provide more background. Funding amounts are $41,000 (total) for each Masters student and $79,500 (total) for each PhD student.

This grant program supports: (1) training students for Master's and doctoral degrees in food, agricultural and natural resource sciences, or; (2) Special International Study or Thesis/Dissertation Research Travel Allowances (IRTA) for eligible USDA NNF beneficiaries. Awards are specifically intended to support traineeship programs that engage outstanding students to pursue and complete their degrees in USDA mission areas. Applicants provide clarity about the philosophy of their graduate training, and relevance to USDA mission sciences, NIFA priorities and national science education policies and statistics.

Applications are being solicited from institutions that confer a graduate degree in at least one of the following Targeted Expertise Shortage Areas: (a) Animal Production; (b) Plant Production; (c) Forest Resources; (d) Agricultural Educators and Communicators; (e) Agricultural Management and Economics; (f) Food Science, Human Nutrition and Human Sciences; (g) Sciences for Agricultural Biosecurity; (h) Integrative Biosciences for Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems – (integrative training in food and agricultural, social and economic disciplines).

Funding preference will be given to applications that propose to: (a) Establish innovative and evidence-based frameworks for graduate training; (b) Establish Master’s degree or doctoral programs; (c) Establish multidisciplinary graduate training programs; (d) Increase the multicultural diversity of the nation’s scientific and professional expertise in the food and agricultural sciences; (e) Partner with teaching/research/extension or across colleges/institutions or public/private sectors; (f) Provide leadership skills opportunities (this one is highlighted in the RFA); (g) Develop performance measures for evaluating the overall effectiveness of the graduate training.