



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture



Research & Extension Experience for Undergraduates Integrative Agroecology and Sustainability Colorado State University – Summer 2019

Frequently Asked Questions

APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

What majors are accepted to the program?

We accept applications from all majors. Successful applicants will have strong interest or experience in agroecology and sustainability research that is typically explored through Agricultural Sciences, Business, Environmental Sciences, Life Sciences, Natural Sciences, or Sustainability Sciences majors.

What are the GPA requirements?

The fellowship does not require a specific GPA. Candidates will be evaluated on multiple factors including their academic record.

What is considered a complete Application Package for the Fellowship Program?

Applicants must submit the Application, a Letter of Introduction, a one-page Resume, two (2) Recommendations forms, and unofficial Academic Transcript(s) for all higher education work completed or in progress.

Can I apply if I am an international student?

The USDA NIFA grant requires that students selected as Fellows be United States citizens.

Can I apply if I am graduating in Spring or Summer 2019?

No. Candidates for the program should be undergraduates with sophomore or junior class standing.

What should be included in my Letter of Introduction?

The Letter of Introduction is a 300 to 500 word essay that addresses (1) your interest in the fields of agroecology or sustainability; (2) the aspects of the fellowship program that most appeal to you and why; (3) what you hope to gain as well as contribute to the fellowship program; (4) any prior relevant academic, research, or work experience; and (5) your ranking of the top three REEU research opportunities of most interest to you under the fellowship.

Do I need to submit Academic Transcripts?

An unofficial Academic Transcript from each higher education institution you have attended must be submitted. Applicants should submit copies of their transcripts in PDF or JPEG format.

Who should write my Recommendations? What should they address?

Two (2) Recommendations from faculty, advisors, or supervisors are required. The Recommendation form should be used to ensure that all requested information is addressed.

When are applications due?

Applications are due February 28, 2019. No exceptions.

To whom do I submit my Application Package or contact if I have questions?

Please submit your Application Package to Dr. Kaye Holman at kaye.holman@colostate.edu. If you have questions, you may also reach Dr. Holman at 970-491-2139.

How will I know if you received my Application Package materials?

You will be notified by email within 72 hours of the receipt of any materials for your Application Package.

When will I be notified of decisions on applications?

Fellows will be selected in March 2019, and notifications will be sent to students by the end of the month.

PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM**Where is the program located?**

The program is located on the Colorado State University main campus in Fort Collins, Colorado.

What are the program dates?

The fellowship begins on Sunday, June 2, 2019, and ends on Friday, July 26, 2019. All fellows must commit to participating in the fellowship during the entire 8-week period.

What if I have a conflict with the program dates?

All fellows must commit to participating during the entire 8-week period from June 2 - July 26, 2019. No exceptions will be granted, and candidates who are not available during these dates should not apply.

Is the fellowship paid?

Yes, the fellowship is paid. All fellows receive a \$4,000 stipend awarded at the end of the 8-week fellowship period.

Is housing provided?

Fellows who require housing will be placed in CSU residence halls. All housing will be double-occupancy and will cover room and board.

Is travel support provided for fellows who are from outside the local region?

Travel assistance will be made available to those traveling from outside the local area.

What are the general program expectations for fellows in terms of their research and participation?

Each fellow is expected to participate in all scheduled research and program activities—including, working approximately 32 hours/week with their mentors, taking part in weekly professional development activities and workshops, and attending off-site visits to field stations, research sites, and other venues deemed integral to the fellowship program. At the end of the program, fellows will present their research at a closing luncheon, as well.

What type of research projects will I be working on?

Fellows will spend approximately 80% of their time in focused research projects in their mentors' laboratories in research placements in agroecology, pests and invasive species, pollination biology, plant breeding and genetics, soil health, or water resource optimization.

PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP AND LEADERSHIP**Who is sponsoring and leading the fellowship program?**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is providing primary grant funding in collaboration with Colorado State University (CSU). Faculty and staff from the CSU College of Agricultural Sciences and the Warner College of Natural Resources will be leading the fellowship program.