Food & Agriculture Mentors Wanted

Mentor the next generation of agriculture and life science researchers through the Foundation for Food and Agriculture’s (FFAR) Fellows program.

The consensus among employers is that U.S. universities could better prepare a career-ready STEM workforce by breaking down disciplinary silos and increasing the focus on professional development and “soft-skills.” The FFAR Fellows program guides three cohorts of 16-20 graduate students through a 3-year program of professional development and industry mentorship.

By co-sponsoring a PhD student for the 3-year fellowship, industry leaders build connections to students and university research programs as they mentor a developing researcher who is specifically interested in a career working with industry.

Application and award dates for the 2020-2023 cohort:

December 1, 2019
online application for students and their professors available at ffarfellows.org

February 17, 2020
complete application due for the Stipend + Professional Development Fellowships*, includes letter from the industry sponsor committing to sponsorship of $32,500 per year for each of three years. (Sponsorship is payable direct to the lead institution, North Carolina State University, via wire transfer or check, by August 1 of each academic year; or payable in one lump sum by August 1 of the first academic year).

March 11, 2020
Stipend + Professional Development Fellowships awarded

April 15, 2020
complete application due for the Professional Development Fellowships*, includes letter from the industry sponsor committing to sponsorship of $5,000 per year for each of three years. (Sponsorship is payable direct to the lead institution, North Carolina State University, via wire transfer or check, by August 1 of each academic year; or payable in one lump sum by August 1 of the first academic year).

May 4, 2020
Professional Development Fellowships awarded

Eligibility:
see reverse

For more information:
ffarfellows.org

* Two categories of Fellowship are available: (1) The Stipend + Professional Development Fellowship supports student tuition, fees, stipend and related costs, plus the professional development training. (2) The Professional Development Fellowship supports professional development training. All Fellows have connections to industry mentors and train together in person and virtually throughout the 3-year fellowship term.
Grow Tomorrow’s Food & Agriculture Leaders

Prepare students for leadership in food and agriculture and a career working with the agriculture and life science industry: Encourage your students to apply for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture’s (FFAR) Fellows program.

PhD students who participate in this 3-year program, jointly funded by FFAR and industry or analogous sponsors, have access to mentors within and outside of academia while developing their professional development skills through in-person and virtual training. Teamwork, leadership and coachability, are some of the “soft skills” noted by industry, and ones that can be developed with training and mentoring.

Eligibility requirements for students:

- Completion of a masters degree or one year of a PhD program by June 2020
- Acceptance in a PhD program by May 2020
- Three years remaining in the degree program (Fall 2020 to Spring 2023)
- A confirmed PhD faculty advisor
- Confirmation of an industry sponsor (sponsors can include companies, foundations, NGOs, grower organizations)
- For Stipend + Professional Development applications*: Acceptance or current matriculation at an FFAR partner institution (see ffarfellows.org for listing)
- Residency or study visa
- TOEFL Score indicating a minimum of 23/30 for listening, speaking, writing (not required for U.S. students and some international students)

Application and award dates for the 2020-2023 cohort:
see reverse

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