



FFAR Fellows

Future Leaders for Food & Agriculture

Grow Tomorrow's Food & Agriculture Leaders

Support and mentor the next generation of agriculture and life science researchers through the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (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 cohorts of 30 graduate students through a 3-year program of professional development and mentorship.

By co-sponsoring a PhD student for the 3-year fellowship, leaders in industry and non-governmental organizations build connections to students and university research programs as they mentor a developing researcher.



Application and award dates for the 2026-2029 cohort:

November 1, 2025

online application for students and their professors available at ffarfellows.org

February 22, 2026

complete application due for the Stipend + Professional Development Fellowships*

March 15, 2026

Stipend + Professional Development Fellowships awarded

April 15, 2026

complete application due for the Professional Development Fellowships*

May 9, 2026

Professional Development Fellowships awarded

Who Can Sponsor a Fellow?

Industry, commodity organizations, foundations, and university departments are eligible to sponsor a FFAR Fellow. Sponsorship must derive from non-federal funds.

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. The sponsorship of \$32,500 per year is matched by the FFAR Fellows Program and Fellows receive \$55,000 annually in support. (2) The Professional Development Fellowship supports professional development training. The sponsor's commitment of \$5,000 per year funds the training and associated travel costs. All Fellows train together as a cohort in person and virtually throughout the 3-year fellowship term.



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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 Research (FFAR) Fellows program.

The 3-year program, jointly funded by FFAR and industry or analogous sponsor organizations, provides PhD students with exposure to careers from across the agricultural sector: from academic and industrial research to diverse roles in government, non-profits and NGOs. With an emphasis on “soft skill” development, the FFAR Fellows program provides the toolkit needed to build the teamwork, leadership, and change-making skills for the next generation of agricultural leaders.



Eligibility requirements for students:

- Completion of a masters degree or one year of a PhD program by June 2026
- Acceptance in a PhD program by May 2026
- Three years remaining in the degree program (Fall 2026 to Spring 2029)
- A confirmed PhD faculty advisor
- Confirmation of a matching sponsor (sponsors can include companies, foundations, NGOs, grower organizations, and universities in some cases; also see website for information on scholarships for the Professional Development Category)
- Residency or study visa

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