



**Ohio Agricultural Research
and Development Center**

Offices of the Director
1680 Madison Ave
Wooster, OH 44691-4096

Phone 330-263-3701
Fax 330-263-3688

115 Ag. Admin. Bldg.
2120 Fyffe Road
Columbus, OH 43210-3263

Phone 614-292-3897
Fax 614-292-3263
E-mail oardc@osu.edu

DATE: January 12, 2009

TO: School Directors, Chairs, Associate Chairs,
Program Heads, and Graduate Studies Committee Chairs

FROM: Steven A. Slack, OARDC Director

SUBJECT: **2009 FAES Environmental Graduate Research Fellowship
Program**

This letter is to announce the continuation of the 2009 Competition for a FAES Environmental Graduate Research Fellowship Program. The source of funds is through the Board of Regents STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine) program. The goal of this program is to recruit the very best graduate students to environmental research in FAES. Up to ten fellowships will be awarded this year with \$20,000/year available to support M.S. students and \$22,000/year for Ph.D. students. Preference will be given to Ph.D. students. One year of funding for all awards, including any applicable tuition and fees, will be provided. Funds to support the awards will be available on July 1, 2009. Academic units receiving environmental fellowships must agree to continue the support of M.S. students for at least one additional year and Ph.D. students for at least two additional years if satisfactory progress toward completion of the degree is demonstrated.

Each graduate program may submit as many nominations as are eligible according to the guidelines; however, the program must prioritize its nominations. Depending on the quality of the nominees, a program may receive multiple awards. In general, students with a GPA above 3.6 on a 4.0 scale, a 75th percentile average on the GRE general exam's Verbal and Quantitative components, and a 4.0 on the GRE Analytical Writing component are considered strong candidates. These values should be used only as guidelines, because assessment of the nominee's potential will be based on the student's total file including letters of recommendation, statement of future goals, and other evidence of scholarly productivity. Additional details about the awards criteria are attached.

Graduate Studies Committee Chairs or prospective faculty advisors must submit a letter indicating how each candidate's research will support the College's priority emphasis on improving environmental quality.

Our top choices for these fellowships will often evaluate opportunities elsewhere. Consequently, this fellowship program must be coupled with an aggressive recruitment of top candidates. If an OSU Fellowship is also received, this award may be deferred for a year with the understanding that the academic unit will assure that the OSU Fellowship stipend is equivalent to this award. If another OARDC award (e.g., the Director's Associateship) is received, the Director's Associateship can also be deferred until the following year.

Please circulate this announcement to FAES faculty or faculty having OARDC appointments who would have potential applicants. Also, please coordinate with your graduate studies committee(s) to select and rank your nominees. An FAES Environmental Fellowship Committee appointed by the OARDC Director will review the candidates and select recipients.

Deadline for receipt of nominations will be by **5 p.m., Tuesday, February 17, 2009**. Send seven copies of each nomination to the OARDC Director's Office at either the Wooster or Columbus Campus, attention Steven Slack.

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c B. D. Moser
 L. H. Newcomb
 FAES Environmental Fellowship Committee

**The Ohio State University
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences
FAES Environmental Graduate Research Fellowships**

Stipend: \$20,000 for one-year for M.S. candidates, \$22,000 for one-year for Ph.D. candidates, including any applicable tuition and fees. Preference will be given to Ph.D. students. Awardees must carry a minimum of 15 graduate credit hours per quarter and may not hold other appointments during the award period. Fellowship recipients are not required to perform services as a condition for receiving the stipend awarded during the fellowship year. Responsibilities in subsequent years will be dictated by the source(s) of funding.

Duration of Appointment: Fellowship support for each student will be limited to one-year for M.S. and Ph.D. students. The academic units or advisors receiving environmental fellowships must agree to extend GA support for M.S. students for at least one year and Ph.D. students for at least two years at the same stipend rate provided that satisfactory progress toward completion of the degree is demonstrated.

Eligibility: Fellowship awards are open to students seeking to begin an M.S. or Ph.D. program at The Ohio State University. Students currently enrolled in graduate programs at OSU or those enrolled in classes working toward graduate program requirements are not eligible. Likewise, those holding degrees from OSU are only eligible if they are returning to OSU after having received a degree from another institution.

Application Requirements:

1. Nomination Cover Page.
2. University transcript(s). A GPA of 3.6 or higher on a scale of 4 is desirable.
3. A Graduate Record Examination is required. A 75th percentile average on the GRE general exam's Verbal and Quantitative components, and a 4.0 on the GRE Analytical Writing component are desirable.
4. Three letters of recommendation.
5. One or two page statement (typed, single spaced) from the student describing his/her research and professional goals.
6. A curriculum vitae outlining the applicant's educational training, relevant work experiences, honors, and other evidence of scholarly productivity and performance (e.g. publications) is recommended.
7. A letter from prospective faculty advisor on how applicant's research will contribute to enhancing environmental quality. Special consideration will be given to projects directed at issues related to climate change or carbon and water in the earth system.
8. OSU Graduate Admission Form.

Nomination and Evaluation Procedures: Graduate Studies Committees from departments (school) or the Environmental Science Graduate Program should nominate students by submitting seven copies of each nomination package to the OARDC Director's Office at either the Columbus or Wooster campus on or before **5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 16, 2009**. Graduate programs may submit as many nominations as are eligible according to the guidelines given above; however, the program must prioritize the nominations. The prospective faculty advisor should be in FAES or hold an OARDC appointment and should be specified in the letter of nomination.

Nominations will be evaluated by an Environmental Fellowship Committee appointed by the OARDC Director. The target date for a final announcement of the awards is approximately March 23, 2009.

Nomination Cover Page
FAES Environmental Graduate Research Fellowship Program

Nominating Graduate Program: _____

Nominee: _____

Requested Degree: _____ M.S. _____ Ph.D.

Probable FAES Faculty Advisor: _____

Checklist: This application contains the following including this cover page

- _____ College transcripts, OSU and previous institution(s)
- _____ GRE scores
- _____ Three letters of recommendation
- _____ One or two page statement by the student describing his/her research and professional goals
- _____ Letter from prospective faculty advisor on how student's research will contribute to enhancing environmental quality.
- _____ A curriculum vitae for the applicant
- _____ OSU Graduate Admission Form