

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Cooperative State Research,
Education, and Extension Service****Food and Agricultural Sciences
National Needs Graduate Fellowships
Grants Program; Solicitation of
Proposals for Fiscal Year 1995**

Purpose

Notice is hereby given that under the authority contained in Section 1417(b)(6) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3152(b)(6)), the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) will award competitive grants to colleges and universities for doctoral fellowships to meet national needs for the development of professional and scientific expertise in the food and agricultural sciences.

(The CSREES was established by Pub. L. No. 103-354, the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, and the functions of the Cooperative State Research Service were transferred to the CSREES by the Secretary of Agriculture in the Secretary's Memorandum 1010-1, Reorganization of the Department of Agriculture, October 20, 1994. A Final Rule amending the administrative provisions that apply to this program (7 CFR part 3402) was published in the Federal Register on December 30, 1994 (59 FR 68072).)

Eligibility

Please note that the authorizing legislation for the National Needs Graduate Fellowship Grants Program allows the award of grants to colleges and universities only; awards cannot be made to research foundations established by the college or university.

Available Funds

The amount available for this purpose in FY 1995 is approximately \$3,395,000.

Targeted Areas

Food and agricultural sciences areas appropriate for fellowship applications are those in which shortages of expertise have been determined and targeted by CSREES for national needs doctoral fellowship support. In FY 1995, only the doctoral level of study will be supported. CSREES supports six national needs areas on a rotating basis of three needs areas per fiscal year. The targeted national needs areas to be supported in FY 1995 are: Biotechnology—Plant; Engineering—

Food, Forest, Biological, or Agricultural; and Water Science. Approximately one-third of the available funds will be allocated to each of the three national needs areas. CSREES plans to support the remaining three national needs areas (Biotechnology—Animal; Human Nutrition and/or Food Science; and Marketing or Management—Food, Forest Products, or Agribusiness) in FY 1996. Although this procedure limits the participation of an applicant interested in a specific targeted national needs area to alternating years, it increases the likelihood that the applicant will obtain funding under the program each time a grant application is submitted.

Proposal Limitations

For the FY 1995 program, a proposal may request funding in only one national needs area. A proposal may request a minimum of two fellowships and a maximum of four fellowships in the national needs area for which funding is requested. No limitation is placed on the number of proposals an institution may submit. However, the same college or equivalent administrative unit within an institution may submit a maximum of three proposals: one in each of the three national needs areas supported. (No more than one proposal may be submitted in any one national needs area by the same college or equivalent administrative unit.) Additionally, total funds awarded to an institution under the program in FY 1995 shall not exceed \$324,000.

Financial and Other Limitations

Each institution funded will receive \$54,000 for each doctoral fellowship awarded. However, it is anticipated that total program funds available will not be evenly divisible by \$54,000. Therefore, one fellowship may be supported on a partial basis with a lesser amount of funds. Except in the case of the partially funded fellowship, fellowship monies must be used to: (1) Support the same doctoral fellow for three years at \$17,000 per year; and (2) provide for an institution annual cost-of-education allowance of \$1,000, not to exceed a total of \$3,000 over the three-year duration of the fellowship.

While proposals must document institution willingness to recruit and train at least two but not more than four fellows in a national needs area, CSREES may fund fewer fellows than requested in a proposal.

This program is highly competitive, and it is anticipated that available funding will support approximately 63 doctoral fellows through seven to ten

grants in each of the three targeted areas.

Special International Study or Thesis/
Dissertation Research Travel
Allowances

CSREES has determined that no FY 1995 appropriations will be targeted to supplemental grants supporting special international study or thesis/dissertation research travel allowances. However, it is possible that no-year funds drawn from expired fellowship grants with unspent funds remaining will be used to support such supplemental grants in FY 1995. If CSREES determines that special international study or thesis/dissertation travel allowances will be awarded in FY 1995, a Federal Register notice supplementing this program announcement will be published supplying the information specified in 7 CFR 3402.5, sections (e) and (f).

Evaluation Criteria

There are no changes to the evaluation criteria or point weightings for FY 1995. The evaluation criteria as published in the administrative provisions will be used to evaluate proposals for the FY 1995 competition.

Application Information

An application package has been developed which provides the forms, instructions, and other relevant information needed by institutions to apply to the Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate Fellowship Grants Program described herein. Applicants should be aware that the proposal narrative must be typed on one side of the page only, using a font no smaller than 12 point, and double-spaced. All margins must be at least one inch. The proposal should be paginated and a Table of Contents should be included preceding the proposal narrative. Additionally, applicants are cautioned to comply with the 20-page limitation for the narrative section of the proposal and the inclusion of summary faculty vitae through the use of Form CSRS-708.

Copies of the application package may be requested from: Proposal Services Branch; Awards Management Division; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Room 303, Aerospace Center; Ag Box 2245; Washington, DC 20250-2245. The telephone number is (202) 401-5048. To request, via e-mail, that a copy of the application package be sent to you through regular mail, send your request including your name and mailing address to: psb@morrill.usda.gov.

When and Where to Submit Proposals

An original plus five copies of a proposal and one copy of the institution's latest graduate catalog must be submitted. Proposals submitted through the mail should be sent to the address listed above and must be postmarked by April 14, 1995. Hand-delivered proposals must be submitted by April 14, 1995 to an express mail or a courier service or brought to Room 303, Aerospace Center, 901 D Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024. Proposals transmitted via a facsimile (FAX) machine will not be accepted.

Submission of an Intent to Submit a Proposal form (Form CSRS-706) is neither required nor requested in FY 1995.

Applicable Regulations

This program is subject to the administrative provisions found at 7 CFR part 3402. A Final Rule amending the administrative provisions for the Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate Fellowship Grants Program was published in the

Federal Register on December 30, 1994 (59 FR 68072). In addition, the USDA Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, 7 CFR part 3015, as amended; the Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants), 7 CFR part 3017; the Restrictions on Lobbying, 7 CFR part 3018; and the regulations regarding Audits of Institutions of Higher Education and Other Nonprofit Institutions, 7 CFR part 3051, apply to this program. Other Federal statutes and regulations that apply to this program are identified in the administrative provisions.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.210. For the reasons set forth in the Final Rule related notice to 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V, 48 FR 29115, June 24, 1983, when the authority to administer this program resided in the Agricultural Research Service, this program is excluded from the scope of Executive

Order 12372 which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials.

Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the collection of information requirements for this program have been approved under OMB Document Nos. 0524-0022 and 0524-0024.

Program Contact

If you have questions concerning the submission of Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate Fellowship Grants Program proposals, please contact Dr. Wm. Jay Jackman, Higher Education Programs, CSREES, USDA, at (202) 401-1790 (voice), (202) 401-1770 (fax), or jjackman@morrell.esusda.gov (Internet).

Done at Washington, DC, this 12th day of January 1995.

William D. Carlson,

Acting Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.

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