

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Cooperative State Research,  
Education, and Extension Service****Food and Agricultural Sciences  
National Needs Graduate Fellowship  
Grants Program; Solicitation of  
Proposals for Fiscal Year 1996;  
Supplemental Grants for Special  
International Study or Thesis/  
Dissertation Research Travel  
Allowances**

Applications are invited for competitive grant awards 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 for Fiscal Year (FY) 1996. Additionally, the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) seeks applications from recipients of presently active national needs fellowship grants for supplemental grants to support special international study or thesis/dissertation research experiences for current Fellows:

**I. Food and Agricultural Sciences  
National Needs Graduate Fellowship  
Grants***Authority*

The authority for this program is 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)). Under this program, subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary may make competitive grants, for periods not to exceed five years, to land-grant colleges and universities, colleges and universities having significant minority enrollments and a demonstrable capacity to carry out the teaching of food and agricultural sciences, and to other colleges and universities having a demonstrable capacity to carry out the teaching of food and agricultural sciences, to administer and conduct graduate fellowship programs to help meet the Nation's needs for development of scientific and professional expertise in the food and agricultural sciences. 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.

*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 1996, 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 1996 are: Animal Biotechnology; Human Nutrition and/or Food Science; and Food, Forest Products, or Agribusiness Marketing or Management. 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 (Plant Biotechnology; Food, Forest, Biological, or Agricultural Engineering; and Water Science) in FY 1997. 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 1996 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 only submit a maximum of three proposals, but no more than one proposal may be submitted in any one national needs area by the same college or equivalent administrative unit within an institution. 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.

*Available Funding*

CSREES anticipates that approximately \$3,395,000 will be available for this program in FY 1996. This program is highly competitive, and it is anticipated that available funding will support approximately 63 doctoral fellows through approximately ten grants in each of the three targeted areas. However, no-year funds drawn from expired fellowship grants with unspent funds remaining may be used to fund more than the approximately 63 fellows supported by the FY 1996 appropriations.

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, or one fellowship may be supported fully by a combination of FY 1996 funds and unspent funds remaining from expired fellowship grants. Except in the case of a 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 duration of the grant. Total funds awarded to an institution under the program in FY 1996 shall not exceed \$324,000.

*Application Information*

An application package is available that 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. 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, D.C. 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 U.S. mail, send your request including your name and mailing address to [psb@reusda.gov](mailto:psb@reusda.gov).

Reminder: 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. Applicants are cautioned to comply with the 20-page limitation for the narrative section of the proposal. Applicants also are cautioned to include *summary* faculty vitae through the use of Form CSREES-708.

*When and Where to Submit Proposals*

An original plus six copies of a proposal and one copy of the institution's latest graduate catalog must be submitted. Proposals submitted through the U.S. mail must be postmarked by February 9, 1996, and should be sent to the following address: 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, D.C. 20250-2245. Hand-delivered proposals must be submitted by February 9, 1996, to an express mail or a courier service or brought to the following address by 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time: Proposal Services Branch; Awards Management Division; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Room 303, Aerospace Center; 901 D Street, S.W.; Washington, D.C. 20024. Proposals transmitted via a facsimile (FAX) machine will not be accepted.

Submission of an Intent to Submit a Proposal form (Form CSREES-706) is neither required nor requested in FY 1996.

## II. Special International Study or Thesis/Dissertation Research Travel Allowances

### *Authority*

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)), and in accordance with the Administrative Provisions for the Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate Fellowship Grants Program (7 CFR Part 3402.5(e)), CSREES will award supplemental grants, on a competitive basis, for special international study or thesis/dissertation research travel allowances. Institutions eligible to receive supplemental grants are those that have active National Needs Graduate Fellowship Grants (awarded in FY 1995 or earlier). These supplemental grants may be awarded to colleges and universities only; awards cannot be made to research foundations established by a college or university.

### *Eligibility*

Eligibility for this opportunity is limited to any current Fellow with sufficient time to complete the international experience before the termination date of the fellowship grant under which he/she is supported. Before the international study or thesis/dissertation research travel may commence, a Fellow must have completed one academic year of full-time study, as defined by the institution, under the fellowship appointment and arrangements must have been formalized for the Fellow to study and/or conduct research in the foreign location(s). All national needs areas previously supported under the Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate Fellowships Grants Program are eligible for the special supplementary grants for special

international study or these/dissertation research travel world.

### *Available Funding*

CREES has determined that no FY 1996 appropriations will be targeted to supplemental grants supporting special international study or thesis/dissertation research travel allowances; rather, no-year funds drawn from expired fellow-up grants with unspent funds remaining will be used to support such supplemental grants.

For each travel allowance, the institution may request up to \$3,000. Travel allowance monies may be used only to pay travel and living expenses for the Fellow while the Fellow is on the specific international assignment as proposed in the application for the special international study or thesis/dissertation research travel allowance. No limitation is placed on the number of applications an institution may submit. Awards will be made to the extent possible based on availability of funds. Estimated funds for supplemental grants in FY 1996 are approximately \$60,000. To the extent possible, all applications associated with one CSREES grant number should be submitted at the same time in order to facilitate the award of these supplemental grants and minimize accounting activity at the grantee institution.

### *Application Information*

A separate application must be submitted by a fellowship grant project director at an eligible institution on behalf of each Fellow for which a special international study or thesis/dissertation research travel allowance is requested. Applications for the special international study or thesis/dissertation research travel allowance supplemental awards may be submitted at any time prior to July 1, 1996. However, to allow time for CSREES to process the applications, proposals should be submitted at least three months prior to the proposed beginning date of the international travel experience. Applicants are urged to submit their proposals early.

Note: Proposals for these special supplemental awards should *not* be submitted as part of the application for a FY 1996 Graduate Fellowship grant.)

Each application must include an "Application for Funding," Form CSREES-661, and a "Budget," Form CSREES-55. To provide HEP with sufficient information upon which to evaluate the merits of the requests for a special international study or thesis/dissertation research travel allowance,

each application for a supplemental grant must contain a narrative which provides the following: (1) The specific destination(s) and duration of the travel; (2) the specific study or thesis/dissertation research activities in which the Fellow will be engaged; (3) how the international experience will contribute to the Fellow's program of study; (4) a budget narrative specifying and justifying the dollar amount requested for the travel; (5) summary credentials of both the U.S. and international faculty or other professionals with whom the Fellow will be working during the international experience (summary credentials must not exceed three pages per person; "Summary Vita—Teaching Proposal," Form CSREES-708, may be used for this purpose); (6) a letter for the dean of the Fellow's college or equivalent administrative unit supporting the Fellow's travel request and certifying that the travel experience will not jeopardize the Fellow's satisfactory progress toward degree completion; and (7) a letter from the fellowship grant project director certifying the Fellow's eligibility, the accuracy of the Fellow's travel request, and the relevance of the travel to the Fellow's advanced degree objectives.

The narrative portion of the application must not exceed 10 pages, excluding the summary vita/vitae. The narrative should 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.

An application package containing the forms, instructions, and other relevant information needed by institutions to apply for the special international study or thesis/dissertation research travel allowances 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 U.S. mail, send your request including your name and mailing address to psb@reusda.gov.

### *Evaluation of Applications*

Applications for the special international travel allowances will be evaluated as they are received until available funds for the supplemental grants are exhausted. Upon receipt of an application, CSREES staff will first determine the eligibility of the Fellow, for whom the application was

submitted, for an international travel experience. Eligible and complete requests then will be reviewed, using the criteria and weights indicated below, by professional staff from USDA or other Federal agencies, as appropriate. Proposals judged to be worthy of funding will be eligible for supplemental awards. Since awards for supplemental grants will be made as reviews are completed, there is no assurance funds will be available late in the Federal fiscal year (which runs from October 1 through September 30) for every acceptable proposal.

The evaluation criteria for special international study or thesis/dissertation research travel allowance applications are indicated below. The points are provided as a guide to the relative importance of each criterion, but all criteria must be addressed satisfactorily.

a. Destination and duration—the degree to which the destination and duration of the travel experience is appropriate for enhancing the Fellow's academic program—10 points.

b. Travel experience activities—the degree to which the specific international experiences contribute to the Fellow's program of study—30 points.

c. Advance preparations—the degree to which the proposed study or research activities are well-planned, including the likelihood that these activities will come to fruition and that the participation of identified personnel will materialize—20 points.

d. Budget—the degree to which the budget for the international experience is justified—10 points.

e. Personnel—the degree to which the personnel, both U.S. and international, involved with the travel experience have the appropriate credentials and experience to direct the Fellow's international experience, and the likelihood that their participation as mentor, trainers, advisors, or teachers will contribute to the educational value of the travel experiences—20 points.

f. Supporting documentation—the degree to which letters from the dean of the college (or equivalent administrative

unit) and the fellowship grant project director support the application—10 points.

#### *When and Where to Submit Applications*

An original plus six copies of each application must be submitted. Each copy of the application should be stapled securely in the upper left-hand corner. Please do not bind the original or the copies of the application. All copies of the application must be mailed in one package. Applications transmitted via a facsimile (FAX) machine will not be accepted.

Applications submitted through the U.S. mail should be sent to the following address: 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. Hand-delivered proposals, including those submitted to an express mail or a courier service, should be brought to the following address: Proposal Services Branch; Awards Management Division; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Room 303, Aerospace Center; 901 D Street, SW.; Washington, DC 20024. The telephone number is (202) 401-5048. Applications may be submitted at any time prior to July 1, 1996.

#### III. 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 Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements With Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations, 7 CFR Part 3019 (60 FR 44,122 (August 24, 1995)); 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.

#### IV. 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.

#### V. 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, Science and Education Resources Development, CSREES, USDA, at (202) 720-1973 (voice), (202) 720-2030 (fax), or [jjackman@reeusda.gov](mailto:jjackman@reeusda.gov) (Internet).

Done at Washington, D.C., this 3rd day of November 1995.

Colien Hefferan,

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

[FR Doc. 95-27818 Filed 11-8-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-M