

Graduate Scholarship Program

Program Description

The Graduate Scholarship Program provides funding for graduate school as preparation for a career in government service. The program is designed to recruit individuals to work for USDA after completion of graduate course work in particular disciplines, and will be administered under the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP).

In 2006, twelve scholarships will be awarded to students enrolled in Master's or Ph.D. programs. Generally, a maximum of two (2) years of funding will be provided for a Master's degree and four (4) years of funding will be provided for a Ph.D. degree.

Recipients of the scholarships enter into an agreement with USDA and receive full-tuition scholarships. Prior to graduation, recipients intern at USDA for a minimum of 640 hours. The internships are paid in addition to the scholarship funds.

After graduation, recipients are required to work for USDA one year for every year of financial assistance received from USDA.

The awards include the following:

- Full-tuition scholarships: tuition, mandatory university fees and books;
- Paid internship (minimum 640 hours) leading to permanent employment;
- Employee benefits; and
- Mentoring, career development, and leadership training.

Sponsoring Agencies and Eligible Fields of Study

The scholarships are sponsored by eight (8) USDA agencies. The following lists the agencies and each agency's eligible fields of study.

Agricultural Marketing Service

- Eligible Fields of Study:
 - Agricultural Business (Master's)
 - Agricultural Economics (Ph.D. or Master's)
 - Agricultural Engineering/Mechanics (Master's)
 - Agricultural Management (Master's)
 - Agricultural Marketing (Master's)
 - Agronomy (Ph.D.)
 - Animal Sciences (Ph.D.)
 - Auditing (Ph.D.)
 - Botany Statistics (Ph.D.)
 - Food Sciences/Technology (Master's)

- Contact Person: Ruihong Guo
(202) 720-0583
ruihong.guo2@usda.gov

Forest Service

- Eligible Fields of Study:
 - Aquatic Ecology (Ph.D.)
 - Fire Ecology (Ph.D.)
 - Forest Ecology (Ph.D.)
 - Geomtronics and Geographic Information Systems (Master's)
 - Hydrology (Master's)
 - Mechanical Engineering (Master's)
 - Range Ecology (Ph.D.)
 - Safety Engineering (Master's)
 - Soil Science (Master's)
 - Transportation Engineering (Master's)
 - Wildlife and Fisheries Biology (Ph.D.)
- Contact Person: John Kusano
(703) 605-0877
johnkusano@fs.fed.us

Farm Service Agency

- Eligible Fields of Study:
 - Accounting
 - Agriculture
 - Agricultural Business
 - Agricultural Economics
 - Agricultural Management
 - Business Administration
 - Computer Science
 - Finance
 - Geographical Information Systems
- Contact Person: Mondina Jolley
(202) 418-8992
mondina.jolley@usda.gov

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

- Eligible Fields of Study:
 - Accounting

- Agricultural Business
 - Agricultural Economics
 - Auditing
 - Computer Science
- Contact Person: Alvin Dillings
(202) 690-3640
alvin.dillings2@usda.gov

National Agricultural Statistics Service

- Eligible Fields of Study:
 - Geographic Information Systems
 - Statistics
 - Contact Person: George Hanuschak
(703) 877-8000 Ext. 100
george.hanuschak@usda.gov
- Or Hubert Hamer
(202) 720-8092
hubert.hamer@usda.gov

Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Eligible Fields of Study:
 - Agricultural Economics
 - Agricultural Engineering
 - Agronomy
 - Archeology
 - Biology (including Wildlife and Fisheries)
 - Civil Engineering
 - Computer Science
 - Geographic Information Systems
 - Hydrology
 - Soil Science
- Contact Person: Pamela Boyland
(202) 720-6526
pamela.boyland@usda.gov

Office of Chief Information Officer

- Eligible Fields of Study:

- Computer Science (Master's)
- Contact Person: Lorri Clark
(504) 426-6200
lorri.clark@usda.gov

Rural Housing Service

- Eligible Fields of Study:
 - Business Administration
 - Public Administration
- Contact Person: Junius W. Scott
(202) 692-0199
junius.scott@wdc.usda.gov

Eligibility Criteria

Each applicant must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a U.S. citizen;
- Possess a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, or be a graduating senior, with at least a cumulative 3.0 grade point average based on a 4.0 scale;
- Be accepted into or enrolled in an accredited institution as a graduate student, seeking a Master's or Ph.D. degree in a field as defined above;
- Have a strong interest in a career in public service with USDA; and
- Not a current USDA employee.

Additional Information

For further information, please direct inquiries to the contact person for the agency you are interested in.