

**NIFA Fellowship Grant Program
Frequently Asked Questions
8/30/2010**

Is my research appropriate for funding through the NIFA Fellowships Grant Program

Fellowships are acceptable as long as they fit one of the following program priorities.

1. Keep American agriculture competitive while ending world hunger;
2. Improve nutrition and end childhood obesity;
3. Improve food safety for all Americans;
4. Secure America's energy future through renewable biofuels; and
5. Mitigate and adapt agriculture to variations in climate.

Can I take my preliminary exams after I submit my Fellowship application?

Pre-doctoral applicants must have advanced to candidacy by the application due date (October 5, 2010).

Do I have to specify on my application which challenge area I'm submitting to?

The NIFA Fellowship Grant Program RFA states that the project summary must indicate which specific FY 2010 challenge area the proposed project addresses.

What are the eligibility requirements for the NIFA Fellowships Grant Program?

The eligibility requirements are specified in the RFA. The RFA can be found online at:

http://nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri_rfa.html

As a faculty member, can I submit an application to hire a post-doctoral fellow?

Eligibility for post-doctoral fellowships must come directly from the candidate not the faculty mentor.

What do I need to do to apply?

The Request for Applications, forms and instructions for completing them can be found on the website Grants.gov. All applications must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov and to do this you **MUST** register with Grants.gov. Here are the instructions from the Grants.gov website: **"In order to apply for a grant, you and/or your organization must complete the Grants.gov registration process. The registration process for an Organization or an Individual can take between three to five business days or as long as four weeks if all steps are not completed in a timely manner. So please register early!"**

Do I complete the forms differently if I apply as an individual?

- a. If you wish to apply as an individual, register as an individual with Grants.gov. Doing so will generate a DUNS number for use in the application forms.
- b. Some forms ask for the "Employer Identification Number (EIN or TIN), which refers to the recipient of the funds. As an individual applicant, you will need to enter your social security number.