

## Grain Science Graduate Excellence Fellowship

### Purpose:

The Department of Grain Science and Industry at Kansas State University is offering up to 6 Graduate Fellowships starting in Fall 2025. Each fellowship, valued at approximately \$40,000 per year (\$30,000 annual stipend plus tuition and fees), is guaranteed for at least 3 years, contingent on satisfactory academic and research performance. The fellowship aims to support exceptional and high-potential PhD students newly admitted to the Grain Science & Industry graduate program, beginning no earlier than Fall 2025. A primary goal of the fellowships is to attract top-tier domestic talent into our PhD program. While preference is given to domestic applicants, all exceptional candidates will be considered.

### Eligibility:

Candidates must:

- Demonstrate strong academic credentials (minimum 3.5 GPA), including a track record of high academic achievement.
- Have significant research experiences, leadership roles, and a strong commitment to grain science.
- Show a strong commitment to pursuing a PhD in grain science graduate program.
- Meet all requirements for the Grain Science graduate program, identify potential advisor(s), and apply for admission to the graduate program.

### Nomination process:

- GSI faculty members will nominate prospective students. Each nomination must include a detailed statement from the student justifying the qualifications based on the selection criteria, and a nomination letter from the faculty highlighting the nominee's qualifications, research potential, and contributions to the field.
- Nominations should be submitted as soon as possible to Ms. Andrea Wolf ([wolf20@ksu.edu](mailto:wolf20@ksu.edu)) and copied to Dr. Yonghui Li ([yonghui@ksu.edu](mailto:yonghui@ksu.edu)) and will be accepted until all 6 fellowships are filled. For best consideration, please submit by Feb. 15, 2025.
- Fellowship recipients will be notified by Apr. 1, 2025. Prompt responses from selected candidates are encouraged, ideally within two weeks.

### Selection criteria:

The graduate admissions committee will evaluate the fellowships using the following rubric and provide recommendations to the department head for the final decision:

- **Grade (weight 20%):** Minimum 3.5 GPA at 4.0 scale, relevant coursework.

- **Academic record & potential (15%):** Reputation of the nominee's previous institution/program, clarify of career objectives, commitment to PhD, class rank, academic awards and honors, etc.
- **Research experience (25%):** Significant research involvement, such as independent research, internships, and research leading to publications, presentations, posters, abstracts, etc.
- **Leadership & other contributions (15%):** Demonstrated leadership through involvement in scientific societies, student organizations, department/university, and other attributes.
- **Letters of recommendation (15%):** Strong recommendations from referees who can speak to the candidate's research potential, leadership abilities, and academic achievements. Overall quantitative (e.g., top 5%, next 10%) and qualitative ranking (e.g., highly recommended, recommend without reservation) provided in the referee forms will be considered.
- **Nomination letter from GSI faculty (10%).** A detailed faculty letter outlining why the candidate is an excellent fit for the fellowship, including feedback from the faculty's interview with the candidate.

**Fellowship benefits:**

- **Stipend:** Recipients will receive an annual stipend of \$30,000.
- **Tuition & fees:** Full coverage of tuition and associated fees for up to three years.
- **Additional opportunities:** Fellows will have opportunities to present their research at national and international conferences, collaborate with leading experts in the field, and engage in professional development activities.

**Responsibilities & expectations**

- Fellows must maintain satisfactory academic progress.
- Annual progress reports detailing research advancements and academic achievements must be submitted and reviewed for continuous support.
- Participation in department seminars and relevant outreach activities to foster academic growth and community engagement.

Contact information: Dr. Yonghui Li, Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director, Department of Grain Science and Industry, Kansas State University. Email: [yonghui@ksu.edu](mailto:yonghui@ksu.edu); Telephone: 785-532-4061.