

2027 GFS Graduate Excellence Fellowship**Fellowship Overview:**

The Department of Grain and Food Science (GFS) at Kansas State University is offering up to two Graduate Excellence Fellowships for incoming PhD students beginning in Fall 2027. Each fellowship provides a \$30,000 annual stipend and tuition and fee coverage, with an estimated total value of \$40,000 per year. Support is available for at least three years, contingent on satisfactory academic and research progress. The fellowship aims to attract outstanding domestic PhD students with strong academic credentials and research potential in grain and food science.

Eligibility Requirements:

Candidates must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- Have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Applicants with a GPA below 3.5 are not eligible.
- Complete the online application for admission to the PhD program in Grain Science or Food Science for Fall 2027 and meet all applicable graduate admission requirements.
- Identify a prospective GFS faculty advisor.

Competitive candidates should demonstrate research experience, leadership or other meaningful contributions, and a strong commitment to doctoral research in grain and food science.

Nomination process:

GFS faculty members nominate prospective students. Each nomination must include:

- A student statement explaining the candidate's qualifications based on the relevant selection criteria.
- A faculty nomination letter highlighting the candidate's qualifications, research potential, contributions to the field, and feedback from the faculty interview.
- A complete graduate application packet in Slate.

GFS faculty should submit nominations to Dr. Yonghui Li (yonghui@ksu.edu) by March 1, 2027. Selected recipients will be notified by April 1, 2027, and are encouraged to respond within two weeks of notification.

Selection Criteria:

The GFS Graduate Committee will evaluate candidates using the weighted criteria below and submit to the department head for the final decision.

Criterion	Weight	Evaluation focus
Academic performance	20%	GPA and performance in relevant coursework.
Academic record and potential	15%	Academic achievements, honors, career objectives, commitment to doctoral study, and readiness for advanced research.
Research experience	25%	Quality and depth of research involvement, including independent projects, internships, presentations, abstracts, posters, and publications.
Leadership and other contributions	15%	Leadership, service, teamwork, scientific or student organizations, and other contributions.
Letters of recommendation	15%	Assessments of academic achievement, research potential, and leadership from referees in the graduate application; quantitative or qualitative rankings when provided.
GFS faculty nomination letter	10%	Research fit, overall qualifications and potential, and feedback from the faculty interview.

Fellowship Benefits:

- Stipend: \$30,000 annually.
- Tuition and fees: Coverage of tuition and associated fees.
- Professional development: Opportunities to present research at conferences, collaborate with experts, and participate in professional development activities.

Responsibilities and Expectations:

- Maintain satisfactory academic and research progress.
- Submit an annual progress report summarizing research accomplishments and academic achievements for review of continued support.
- Participate in departmental seminars and relevant outreach activities.

Contact:

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