

## Grain Science Graduate Excellence Fellowship

### Purpose:

The Department of Grain and Food Science (GFS) at Kansas State University is offering up to one Graduate Fellowship starting in Fall 2026. The 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 domestic PhD students newly admitted to the Grain Science graduate program. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

### Eligibility:

Candidates must:

- Demonstrate strong academic credentials (minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.5 on 4.0 scale), 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 the Grain Science graduate program.
- Meet all requirements for the Grain Science graduate program, identify potential advisor(s), and apply for admission to the Grain Science graduate program.

### Nomination process:

- GFS faculty members will nominate prospective students. Each nomination must include: (1) a detailed statement from the student justifying the qualifications based on the selection criteria, and (2) a nomination letter from the faculty highlighting the nominee's qualifications, research potential, and contributions to the field.
- Nominations should be submitted to Dr. Yonghui Li ([yonghui@ksu.edu](mailto:yonghui@ksu.edu)) by Mar. 31, 2026.
- Fellowship recipient will be notified by Apr. 15, 2026. Prompt responses from selected candidates are encouraged, ideally within two weeks.

### Selection criteria:

The Graduate Committee will evaluate the fellowships using the following rubric and provide recommendations to the department head for the final decision:

- **Grade (weight 20%):** GPA and relevant coursework.
- **Academic record & potential (15%):** Reputation of the nominee's previous institution/program, clarity 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.
- **GFS faculty nomination letter (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 and Food Science, Kansas State University. Email: [yonghui@ksu.edu](mailto:yonghui@ksu.edu); Telephone: 785-532-4061.