



UC DAVIS

Plant Breeding Center

NATIONAL NEEDS FELLOWSHIP

Opportunity for prospective Masters and PhD students in plant breeding

The Details:

The University of California, Davis received funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) for a National Needs Graduate Fellowship (NNF) grant to fully support two Masters-level and two Doctoral-level Graduate Research Assistantships in Plant Breeding.

The four positions are available in Fall 2021 through a joint collaboration of the Plant Breeding Center and the Horticulture and Agronomy Graduate Group (GGHA). Candidates for NNF funding will be chosen from the pool of applicants to the Horticulture and Agronomy Graduate Group at UC Davis, with a focus on historically underrepresented minorities.

The UC Davis curriculum equips students with skills and knowledge in both classical and field-based plant breeding, and molecular and genomics technology in plant breeding. Fellows will benefit from interdisciplinary training, networking with industry professionals, and opportunities to participate in professional meetings. Expected outcomes include publication of research in peer-reviewed journals, presentations at local and national meetings, development of educational materials, and participation in extension and educational programs. Recipients must be citizens or nationals of the United States of America.

How to Apply:

1) Apply for a Masters or PhD program through the Horticulture and Agronomy Graduate Group. General application deadline is March 15th, 2021. Instructions can be found here: <https://ggha.ucdavis.edu/GGHAapply.htm>

2) Once your GGHA application is complete, email Amanda Saichaie at asaichaie@ucdavis.edu to state your intent to be considered for the NNF Fellowship.

3) When you receive application results, follow up with Amanda Saichaie to report your acceptance into the program.

Note: You do not need to reference the NNF Fellowship in your GGHA application. All decisions regarding the NNF in Plant Breeding will be made by the Plant Breeding Center.

For questions regarding the NNF in Plant Breeding, email: asaichaie@ucdavis.edu

For questions regarding the Graduate Application Process, refer to: <https://grad.ucdavis.edu/apply>

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Who should apply for the NNF in Plant Breeding?

There are a multitude of undergraduate majors that could set students up to be successful Horticulture and Agronomy graduate students specializing in Plant Breeding. People who graduated with a Bachelors in the following fields, and are interested in plant breeding, would be a great fit for this program:

- **Agricultural Science**
- **Crop Science**
- **Agronomy**
- **Plant Biology**
- **Genetics**
- **Biology**

There is also an application fee waiver for students who participated in one of the Graduate Preparation programs listed on this page: <https://grad.ucdavis.edu/admissions/admission-requirements/steps-applying>

Careers in Plant Breeding:

So you're interested in plant breeding, but you're not sure what you would do with a Horticulture and Agronomy graduate degree. There are many diverse career opportunities in the industry and academia. UC Davis GGHA graduates have gone on to have fulfilling careers working in the industry for over one hundred of seed companies in California, and the larger seed industry across the globe. Plant breeding is a product-oriented discipline of sciences rooted in population development, quantitative genetics, selection theory and statistics for crop improvement. It encompasses an increasing number of support technologies that sustain society, including: agronomy, pathology, nutrition, genomics, high-throughput phenotyping, bioinformatics, and more.

Another option is academia. Many of our students have gone on to get faculty positions at research universities around the world, or go on to become researchers at academic institutions. The Plant Breeding Center leverages their relationship with local seed companies and faculty from top universities to provide a network to students. This network helps students create new connections and find meaningful mentoring relationships that will help guide them through their graduate program, and help secure employment after graduation.

For more information on what to do with your prospective degree, visit the UC Davis Internship and Career Center: <https://icc.ucdavis.edu/research/what-can-i-do>