

# Field of Entomology Support

## Graduate Assistantships (GRA, RA, GA)

There are three forms of graduate assistantships. Graduate Research Assistantships (GRAs) are appointments focused on thesis-related research. Research Appointments (RAs) are focused on research that may not be related to the student thesis. Graduate Assistantships (GAs) are any other non-teaching academic appointment. GRAs and RAs will typically be funded by a research grant held by the major advisor

## Teaching Assistantships (TA)

Covers tuition, stipend and insurance in exchange for service in an undergraduate course. Specific duties are assigned by the course instructor.

## Extension/Outreach Assistantships (EOA)

Are Assistantships that focus on outreach and extension and are selected by a faculty committee. Faculty in Entomology may propose EOA duties to this committee, and students/advisors may request to be considered for EOA appointments. The faculty committee will recommend suitable student-project fits to the DGS, who sets the appointments.

## Graduate School Recruitment Fellowships:

The Field of Entomology is awarded Recruitment Fellowships each year, available to incoming Ph.D. students only. After recruitment weekend, or another format of interview, the DGS and the Admissions Committee rank all interviewing applicants, and the Fellowships are offered to the top recruits. If a recruit declines to attend Cornell, the Fellowship increments to the next recruit on the list. These Fellowships are for two academic semesters, and either or both semesters can be deferred to any point in the student's tenure.

## Fellowships in Support of Diversity:

Eligible to underrepresented ethnic or other minorities (URMs), first generation graduate students, or others with a history of overcoming disadvantage can be nominated for recruitment Diversity fellowships from the Graduate School. These

nominations are made by the DGS in January or February and cover two full years of support – typically the first and last years of the student’s degree program. Both M.S. and Ph.D. students are eligible, but Ph.D. students are given heavy preference by the Graduate School. Students must have submitted a Diversity Essay with their graduate application to be considered.

### **Presidential Life Sciences Fellowships (PLSF):**

During recruitment season, the DGS may nominate outstanding applicants to be considered for PLSF Fellowships. Typically, 10 appointments are made university-wide, spread broadly among Life Sciences Fields. Preference is given to interdisciplinary nominees, and there is an expectation of outstanding grades, GRE scores, statements of purpose, and letters of recommendation. There are three submission deadlines each recruitment season; all are equivalent, and it generally seems best to hold off on nominations until after recruitment interviews. The PLSF covers the first two semesters of Ph.D. work and the minimum stipend for the first summer. Awardees are required to rotate in three labs on campus, at least one of which must be outside the anticipated home Field. The rotations are otherwise very flexible.

### **Graduate School Top-Off Fellowships:**

Students are eligible to apply for this fellowship only if they have secured an external fellowship that covers at least 50% of the current 9-month GRA stipend and the cost of annual health insurance. It is a competitive process; the student must submit an application for the award. The application should be accompanied by a copy of the external fellowship award letter. The contact for this fellowship is Heidi Hart-Gorman at [hh456@cornell.edu](mailto:hh456@cornell.edu).