



## CRITERIA

### Excellence Fellowship FY27

The College will award Excellence Fellowships matched with departmental assistantships. The goal is to recruit and matriculate top-quality Ph.D. or MS (thesis option) graduate students with a career objective of pursuing a Ph.D. Master’s students currently enrolled at Texas A&M who have applied to a Ph.D. program for Fall 2026 admissions and have not received a Merit or Excellence Fellowship previously are eligible to be nominated for an Excellence Fellowship.

#### College Excellence Fellowship

- 1/2 match @ Dept base + 10%; tuition + fees, and insurance, if needed, 1<sup>st</sup> year

#### Departmental Assistantship

- 1/2 match @ Dept base + 10%, 1<sup>st</sup> year

### Selection and Criteria

Awards will be made on a competitive basis using an evaluation rubric that considers:

- **Grades** (weight 20%).
- **Academics** (weight 25%): Based on the University or program the nominee attended, clarity of career objectives, statement of purpose, commitment to pursue a Ph.D., class rank, academic awards and honors, etc. This reflects your impression of the overall academic training and potential of the student.
- **High Impact Experiential Learning** (weight 20%): Based on research experiences (REU, honors research, graduate research, independent study, etc.), study abroad, internships, special projects, etc. Emphasis is on independent research experiences that resulted in presentations, posters, abstracts, publications, etc.
- **Demonstrated Leadership, Unique Contribution to College, and other attributes that formulate your strong support** (weight 20%): Based on leadership experiences, involvement in societies, organizations, in department/at university (e.g., clubs, scientific societies, officer positions), unique contributions to the college, other attributes.
- **Strength of letters of recommendation** (weight 15%): Based on strength of letters of recommendation. Indicate overall quantitative (e.g., top 1%, top quartile) or qualitative ranking (e.g., best, above average).

### Eligibility

- Must be a first-time MS thesis option or PhD graduate student admitted for Fall 2026.
- Preference will be given to PhD or thesis option Master of Science students who have declared a career objective to pursue a PhD.
- Domestic and international students are eligible.

### Deadlines

- **Applications will be accepted beginning January 12, 2026, in the AGLS InfoReady Portal** until February 20<sup>th</sup>. After we review the applications submitted by Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, we will continue to accept applications until funds are exhausted.
- Merit Fellowship applicants who not selected for a Merit Fellowship will be considered for an Excellence Fellowship using the criteria above.
- The student has until April 15 to accept/decline, but we will for a response within 2 weeks if possible.

### Nomination link in AGLS InfoReady Portal:

<https://tamu-agls.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/2003245>