

**Procedures for Awarding
The
Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowship
For
Recruiting Graduate Assistants**

Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowships are available to **recruit exceptional** graduate students capable of benefiting from further education into the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. These funds are to be used to supplement an existing assistantship (GRA or GTA) with offers of \$3000 for M.S. and \$5000 for Ph.D. students. Fellowships constitute an award based on academic and scholastic achievement or promise and cannot be associated with any service requirement.

Fellowships will be awarded to graduate students who have been accepted into either an M.S. or Ph.D. program, and have been offered a graduate assistantship. Normally, to be competitive the student's application file must show evidence of a last degree GPA of 3.5 or greater; excellent scores on the GRE (if required), and excellent letters of recommendation.

Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowships are generally non-renewable. During the first year of their graduate programs, recipients are encouraged to pursue a national fellowship or other IANR graduate fellowships (e.g., Milton E. Mohr, Widaman, Farmers National, Shear/Miles and Larrick) for succeeding year's awards. If the recipient is unsuccessful in obtaining other fellowships, it is possible that this award may be renewed with documentation of satisfactory progress toward degree completion.

Guidelines

1. Only students offered graduate assistantships are eligible for a Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowship to supplement the assistantship.
2. Only students with generally high scholastic and career potential should be nominated.
3. Each department is eligible to submit a minimum of two nominees per year and no more than 5% of the graduate students currently on assistantship.
4. Nominees should be recommended by the Chairperson of the Departmental Graduate Committee, with appropriate supporting data, and submitted to the IANR Graduate Fellowship Selection Committee with the recommendation of the Department Head/Chair. A letter of support from a potential advisor familiar with the students academic and research performance must be included with the application materials. Multiple submissions from a department should be prioritized by the Departmental Graduate Committee and endorsed by the Department Head/Chair.
5. The stipends will be distributed on an academic year basis and are to be an additional stipend over and above the regular graduate assistantship rate for the department. This is not to be used in lieu of other dollars which the department would otherwise allocate to the recipient's assistantship. No service expectations can be made of the recipients as a result of being awarded this fellowship.
6. The fellowship offer becomes void if it has not been accepted by the student within one month of the date of offer.

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Application

The faculty member is required to submit a completed application for a student being recruited to the Departmental Graduate Committee. The application must include:

1. The Cover Sheet and Routing Form for the Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowship, with the Student Information section filled out.
2. A completed application (UNL Office of Graduate Studies), letters of reference supporting the application, and college transcript(s).
3. A resume.
4. A brief description of the student's expected research topic.

The Departmental Graduate Committee will review the applicants and select the appropriate number for nomination to the IANR Graduate Fellowship Selection Committee. The Departmental Graduate Committee will complete the Departmental Information/Commitment section of the Cover Sheet and Routing Form prior to submission to the Department Head and transmittal to the IANR Fellowship Selection Committee.

SELECTION COMMITTEE: The IANR Graduate Fellowship Selection Committee is comprised of 2 elected members of the Agricultural Research Division Advisory Council, two elected members of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Faculty Advisory Committee, the Chair of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Scholarship Committee (who will serve as chair of the IANR Fellowship Selection Committee), the Dean and Director of the Agricultural Research Division and the Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

CALENDAR: Applications will be accepted throughout the calendar year. Nominees will routinely be considered on a monthly basis. However, the Chair of the IANR Graduate Fellowship Committee may assemble the committee for a special meeting in the instance where an exceptional nominee requires a more immediate response.