National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

Opportunities for Global Engagement through USDA/NIFA programs

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NIFA’s mission –
Invest in and advance agricultural research, education and extension to solve societal challenges.

Focus is domestic, but some opportunities for global engagement; must advance domestic mission.
Only U.S. institutions are eligible to apply for NIFA awards.
Countries were indicated by the NIFA awardee as having an international partnership, collaboration, or other international activity under their NIFA award.
NIFA’s largest competitive grant program – Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

Global Engagement language for AFRI RFAs

“NIFA supports global engagement that advances U.S. agricultural goals. To attain the agency’s goals for U.S. agriculture, promotion of global competence of our nation’s agricultural workforce, and safe and nutritious food security in a growing world, NIFA recognizes that collaboration with international partners through AFRI can contribute to advances in U.S. agriculture. In an increasingly interconnected world, these U.S. advances may have global importance.

Thus, applications in response to this RFA may include collaborations with international partners, but may only be submitted by eligible U.S. institutions. Such applications may include subcontracts to international partners or other institutions and must clearly demonstrate benefits to the U.S.”
Opportunities in NIFA competitive grant programs beyond AFRI

Other NIFA competitive grant programs focused on enhancing an institution’s educational capacity or student experiential learning such as the

• 1890 Institution Teaching, Research, and Extension Capacity Grants
• Higher Education Challenge Grants

Others include options for international activities

• Biotechnology Risk Assessment Grants (BRAG)
• Citrus Disease Research and Extension (CDRE)
• Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Fellowships (NNF)
• Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program (MSP)
• Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Grants
• Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)
• Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)
• Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)
• Women and Minorities in STEM (WAMS)
What types of activities?

- Collaborative research (e.g. AFRI, others, – could do under Tribal Colleges Research Grants Program - TCRGP)
- Sabbaticals (1890 CBG, AFRI if eligible)
- Conferences (AFRI)
- Educational activities
  - Research/experiential learning for undergraduates (AFRI, 1890, HEC, HSI, MSP)
  - Predoctoral and Postdoctoral (AFRI)
Student experiential learning opportunities abroad supported by USDA NIFA grants

University of Tennessee undergraduates with faculty in Belize

These activities are funded by the USDA NIFA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates (REEU) program.
North Carolina State University students in poultry science studied in Australia with funding from a USDA NIFA Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program (MSP) grant.

Applicants must be institutions that confer a Bachelor’s degree in at least one of the disciplines in the food, agriculture, natural resource, or human sciences or a DVM degree. 2-year colleges that are legally authorized to offer a two-year or equivalent program of college-level studies, which are creditable toward a bachelor’s degree, may be awarded a MSP grant in cases where an agreement, or arrangement exists between with a baccalaureate-level institution(s) and the 2-year college. In such instances, the baccalaureate-level institution must be the applicant.
Advancing U.S. Agriculture through Global Engagement

National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) grantees are a diverse set of researchers, educators, and Extension experts who are working to advance agricultural productivity, sustainability, and resilience. To better understand how these grantees are contributing to this goal, we conducted an analysis of the NIFA-funded projects in 2018. This analysis revealed that NIFA grantees are working on a wide range of projects that span from insect pest management to biotechnology and human health.

The results of this analysis show that NIFA grantees are making significant contributions to the advancement of U.S. agriculture. Some of the key findings include:

- NIFA grantees are working on projects that address a variety of needs, from improving crop yields to reducing the impact of pests and diseases.
- The projects are diverse in terms of location, with grantees working in countries around the world.
- The projects are also diverse in terms of the technologies and approaches used, with grantees leveraging a wide range of tools and techniques.

Overall, the analysis suggests that NIFA grantees are making important contributions to the advancement of U.S. agriculture through their work on global engagement projects.

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Collaboration of NIFA with USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

NIFA works with USDA/FAS to send their Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) for universities to host:

- **Borlaug Fellows** - foreign scientists come for 8-12 weeks of research and mentoring at a U.S. institution

- **Cochran Fellows** - usually small groups of foreign agricultural officials, public- or private-sector, for 2 week programs of specialized training or study tours

- **U.S. – China Scientific Exchange Program (SCEP)** - supports exchanges of U.S. and Chinese research teams for 2 weeks to transfer knowledge and technology in agriculture (specific topics)

**USDA/FAS selects the institutions and provides funding**

NIFA’s Center for International Programs (NIFA/CIP) sends FAS’s NOFOs out through our listserv of international agriculture deans & directors – also includes other interested faculty
Opportunities beyond USDA

For faculty – USAID Farmer-to-Farmer program
http://farmer-to-farmer.org

For student study abroad – U.S. Department of State
• Gilman Scholarships
• Critical Language Scholarships

https://studyabroad.state.gov
(info on all of the U.S. Dept. of State study abroad opportunities)
Volunteer: Neelam Canto-Lugo
Implementer: Winrock
Country: Nigeria
Date: May 2017

Volunteer: Wayne Burleson
Assignment: Value-Added Horticulture and Rural Enterprise Development
Implementer: Partners of the Americas
Country: Guatemala
Date: October 2014

http://farmer-to-farmer.org
Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program (U.S. Dept. of State)

The Gilman Scholarship supports American undergraduate students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad.

- 44 percent of Gilman Scholars are first generation college students.
- 64 percent of Gilman Scholars in Academic Year 2014-15 self-identified as being a member of an ethnic minority group.
- Students in agriculture, natural resources, food science, and other fields greatly benefit from studying abroad.

www.gilmanscholarship.org
#GilmanScholarship
Critical Language Scholarship (CLS)
(U.S. Dept. of State)

- Intense language study and cultural immersion abroad
- Undergraduate and graduate students
- Structured, 8- to 10-week summer program
- Full scholarship
- Approx. 550 scholarships each summer
- Equivalent to one year of college language study

CLScholarship.org - program information and application & application tips
USDA/NIFA’s

Center for International Programs works to:

- Enhance global engagement of NIFA and the institutions it serves
- Develop global partnerships
- Build capacity at home and abroad

Sign up for our NIFA International Programs listserv – get announcements of USDA/FAS opportunities and info on USDA/NIFA opportunities

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For info on NIFA global engagement opportunities
https://nifa.usda.gov/program/global-engagement-programs