Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) Scholarship Program

Business-Innovation-Research
Developing Leaders for the Agri-Food and Rural Sectors
December 8, 2020

Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF)
Food from Thought
Program Objectives

- Undertake research that addresses OMAFRA’s research priorities.
- Support the development of highly skilled graduates who can meet the changing demands of the agri-food and rural sectors.
- Demonstrate to graduate students how agri-food research can be mobilized to have a positive impact on the scientific community, business, and industry.
- Support future generations of researchers, policy makers, business leaders and innovators in agri-food.
Program Components

1. Completion of UNIV*6050 Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Agri-Food Systems.
   • Involves working with external partners to solve real world challenges in the Ontario Agri Food industry

2. Completion of a graduate studies program including a research project that aligns with an OMAFRA Research Priority.

1. UNIV*6050 Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Agri-Food Systems

• Developed in collaboration with Food from Thought, UNIV*6050 was influenced by the RBC 2018 Report: “Humans Wanted: How youth can thrive in the age of disruption”

• Two semester, 1.0 credit course where students choose a challenge to work on with an external partner

• Students work in groups to collaborate with NGOs, government agencies, or businesses on an agri-food challenge they are experiencing and through this process learn foundational skills (communication, collaboration, experience and problem solving)
2020-21 Community Partners

OurFoodFuture
Guelph-Wellington

Seed Voyage

Canada

Cellular Agriculture Canada

SAI Platform
2. Completion of a graduate research project that aligns with an OMAFRA Research Priority.

[Diagram]


The project the applicant will undertake does not require to be funded under OMAFRA programs
Applicants Departments

- Environmental Science
- Environmental Design and Rural Development
- Family Relations and Applied Nutrition
- Animal Bioscience
- Food Science
- Plant Agriculture
- Geography
- Computer Science
- Population Medicine
- Engineering
- Pathobiology

IMPROVE LIFE.
HQP Projects Funded in 2020

Projects represent a diverse array of issues and opportunities in the agri-food sector and rural communities:

• Development of Biopolymeric Composites made with Ontario Biomass for Engineering Multi-Layer Cast Film in Packaging Applications
• Probiotic supplementation to dairy calves to improve animal health and performance while reducing antimicrobial use
• Genomic Analysis of Sclerotinia Stem Rot (caused by Sclerotinia sclerotiorum) Resistance in Canadian Soybean Germplasm
• Plastic Makes Perfect: A Value Chain Analysis of Single-Use Plastics in the Agri-Food Sector
• Policy Solutions for Labour Shortages in the Ontario Agri-Food Sector: An International Comparative Review
• Investigating protein complexes associated with starch synthesis in cereals: A proteomic approach using Blue-Native PAGE
Applicant Eligibility

- Canadian citizen, landed immigrant, or studying under an international visa
- Minimum GPA of A- (greater than or equal to 80%) or equivalent in the last 10 full-time or equivalent credits of post-secondary university studies
- Be entering semesters 1, 2, or 3 of a Master's (thesis-based) or Doctoral program at the University of Guelph at the time of application
- Have a UofG faculty advisor confirmed
- International students must have applied to or be enrolled in a graduate program at the UofG at the time of the scholarship application
  - This ensures the student holds a study visa and that the start of their graduate studies is not delayed while awaiting the visa process, if awarded the scholarship, and that we have access to transcript
Applicant Eligibility continued

Applicants must not be the following:
• OMAFRA employee
• Concurrently holding other major awards/scholarships valued at $15,000/year or more (including but not limited to NSERC, SSHRC, OGS)
• A previous recipient of the HQP Scholarship Program award
Scholarship Funding

• Masters Scholarships
  • $20,000 per year ($6,667 per semester)
  • Entrance - 6 semesters of funding
  • In-Course - 3 semesters of funding

• Doctoral Scholarships
  • $25,000 per year ($8,333 per semester)
  • Entrance - 9 semesters of funding
  • In-Course - 6 semesters of funding

• No faculty top-up required!
Application Process

• Applications will be submitted through the Research Management System (RMS) https://omafra2.smartsimple.ca

• Deadline – January 15, 2021 1:00 PM

• Both the student component and the faculty component of the application must be complete by the deadline (allow yourself enough time for both!)
Application Process continued

• **Part 1: General**
  • Proposal title
  • Project description
  • Fit with OMAFRA Priorities

• **Part 2: Student Application**
  • Degree
  • Department
  • Background and interest in Agri-Food Sector
  • Career goals and how will HQP add value to your career path
  • CV
  • Transcript
Transcripts

• It is the student’s responsibility to ensure they have included the correct type of transcript (official or unofficial)

• If an official transcript is required and not supplied, the student’s application will **not** be eligible for consideration of the scholarship

• If you do not need to provide an official transcript (based on the criteria provided in the next slide), an unofficial transcript is still required to be uploaded to the HQP Scholarship Program application
An official transcript is required to be uploaded to the HQP Scholarship Program application

• if you have not yet applied to graduate studies at the University of Guelph and

• you are a non-University of Guelph student residing in Canada

• you are or have previously been a University of Guelph student but will be using grades from courses you have taken at another university to calculate eligibility for the scholarship program
Application Process continued

Part 3: Faculty Section of Application
• Faculty will need to be invited by the student applicant in the RMS and accept the invitation to access the proposal

• Faculty will need to write a section on how the student will benefit from holding the scholarship

• Confirm that the student will be provided resources to complete the project (project operating funding)
Using the RMS

- New graduate students need to “Register”
- Faculty or students who have previously been associated with OMAFRA-funded research but have not logged in since October 2019 can use “Forgot Password”
Using the RMS continued

Active Calls

1 Open Calls
16 Invited Calls
0 Upcoming Calls
Help

Current Applications

DRAFT UNDER REVIEW AWARDED

Open Calls

Alliance - HQP
1. Scholarship - 2020
The Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) Scholarship program supports the development of highly skilled graduates who can meet the changing demands of the agri-food and rural sector
2020-02-20
13:00:00
Determine Eligibility
Using the RMS
Application Review

Following the application deadline applications are reviewed by a joint OMAFRA and University of Guelph committee:

Applications are reviewed for:

- Student transcript (eligibility requires minimum A-)
- Leadership/working experience (all experience will be considered)
- Future career aspirations
- Research potential
- Alignment of research to the Agri-food or rural sectors
- Results announced in March 2021
3. Post Award Program Requirements

• Attendance at HQP Recognition Event
• Post-Graduation Employment Survey
• Annual and Final reports are to be completed in the RMS by the HQP Scholarship recipient (the student) and endorsed by the faculty advisor
• Ongoing receipt of the scholarship funding is dependent on satisfactory progress of the student by the faculty advisor and timely submission and approval of reports submitted by the HQP Scholar to the Alliance through the RMS
Contact Information

• For questions related to the funding program, please contact Keith Warriner at kwarrine@uoguelph.ca

• For support completing the RMS application template, please contact our Research Programs Coordinators, Kat Tisshaw or Tania Etienne at rescoord@uoguelph.ca
Resources

• HQP program guide on the Alliance website