#

United States Department of Agriculture

# **USDA/1890 National Scholars Program**

# **2020 College Application**



**INTRODUCTION**

Thank you for your interest in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA’s) 1890 National Scholars Program. The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program was established in 1992 as part of the partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the 1890 Land-Grant Universities.

The goal of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is to increase the number of students studying agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, and other related disciplines. The program is open to high school seniors, college freshmen and sophomores who exhibit exemplary leadership traits and demonstrated community service. The Scholarship is highly competitive and provides for full tuition payment, among other benefits, for up to 4-years to selected students enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an 1890 Land-Grant University. The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program partners with USDA agencies and staff offices to provide scholars with professional and educational opportunities. A sponsoring USDA Agency Coordinator will be assigned to the scholar. The USDA Sponsoring Agency will work closely with scholars to provide ongoing support and ensure the Scholar is on track with degree requirements.

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is implemented under the USDA Fellows Experience Program (FEP). Successful applicants will receive a temporary appointment to the USDA, not to exceed 4 years. Upon successful completion of the degree requirements and the end of the agreement period, the scholar is eligible for conversion to permanent appointment in service to USDA without further competition.

**The USDA/1890 National Scholar is required to:**

* Reimburse the USDA Sponsoring agency for costs of education (excluding the employee’s pay and allowances) incurred by the USDA sponsoring agency, if the scholar voluntarily separates from the service of the USDA sponsoring before the end of the period for which the scholar has agreed to continue in the service of the USDA.
* Consult with and obtain the approval of the Sponsoring Agency prior to making any changes to their academic program. Unapproved changes may affect the Scholar’s continued participation in the program, such as scholar’s participation in study abroad programs, third party internships and leave of absence. The Scholar is expected to meet with Agency Coordinator to go over degree classes and ongoing academic status.
* The Scholar must coordinate summer work experience through their work site manager.
* The Scholar must report to work site and have a record of their individual development plan.

Again, thank you for your interest in the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program and best wishes in your pursuit of academic excellence!

**USDA/1890 NATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

**OVERVIEW and AUTHORITIES**

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the 1890 Land-Grant Universities. The program awards scholarships to students accepted to or attending one of the 1890 Land-Grant Universities in pursuit of a bachelor’s degree in agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, or related academic discipline(s).

**The Land-Grant Universities are as follows:**

Alabama A&M University (Alabama)

Alcorn State University (Mississippi)

Central State University (Ohio)

Delaware State University (Delaware)

Florida A&M University (Florida)

Fort Valley State University (Georgia)

Kentucky State University (Kentucky)

Langston University (Oklahoma)

Lincoln University (Missouri)

North Carolina A&T State University (North Carolina)

Prairie View A&M University (Texas)

South Carolina State University (South Carolina)

Southern A&M University (Louisiana)

Tennessee State University (Tennessee)

Tuskegee University (Alabama)

University of Arkansas Pine Bluff (Arkansas)

University of Maryland Eastern Shore (Maryland)

Virginia State University (Virginia)

West Virginia State University (West Virginia)

* Legislative Authority of the Second Morrill Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321-326 and 328);
* National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-113, 1402, et seq7 U.S.C. §3101);
* Office of Personnel Management, Training (5 C.F.R part 410);
* Schedule A (r) federal Experience Authority (5 C.F.R. 213.312 ((r));
* Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (FAIR ACT), Title IX, Section 922 (7 U.S.C § 2279c);
* Executive Order 13779, White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, signed February 18, 2017 continued by Executive Order 13811, signed September 29 September 2017.
* Conversion to Career Conditional Appointment Farm Bill 2018 (5 CFR 213.3102) authority code “ZLM”.

**PURPOSE**

**The purpose of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is:**

* To strengthen the long-term partnership between USDA and the 1890 Land-Grant Universities.
* To promote increase and cooperation among the parties in all areas of mutual interest.
* To improve USDA’s outreach efforts within the communities served by 1890 Land-Grant Universities and USDA.
* To increase the number of students studying and pursuing careers in agriculture, food sciences, and natural resource sciences or other related disciplines.

**OBJECTIVE**

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program offers scholarships to U.S. citizens who are seeking a bachelor’s degree at one of the 1890 Land-Grant Universities in any of the fields of study within agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, or other related disciplines. Examples of required fields of study or related disciplines are**:**

* Agribusiness
* Agriculture/Biological Regulatory Science
* Agricultural Production and Technology
* Agronomy or Crop Sciences
* Agricultural Economics
* Agricultural Engineering/Mechanics Sciences
* Animal Sciences
* Aquaculture/Fisheries
* Biological System Engineering
* Botany
* Business Management
* Entomology
* Family and Consumer Sciences
* Farm and Range Management
* Financial Management
* Forestry and Related Sciences
* Horticulture
* Natural Resources Management
* Nutrition
* Soil Conservation /Soil Science
* Water Resource Management
* Other Related Disciplines (e.g., pre-veterinary medicine, veterinary technology, computer sciences, non-medical biological sciences)

**AWARD**

Scholarships are awarded annually and must be used at one of the 1890 Land-Grant Universities. Each award is renewable each year for the term of the scholarship and provides full tuition, fees, books, and room and board. The scholarship renewal is contingent upon satisfactory academic performance, summer work performance and academic progress toward the bachelor’s degree.

**GENERAL ELIGIBILITY**

**Applicant must:**

* Be a U.S. citizen
* Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale).
* Intend to study and work in the field of agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, or related disciplines
* Demonstrate leadership and community service

**INSTRUCTIONS**Only completed application packages submitted and postmarked by Friday, January 31, 2020 will be considered. All application materials must be submitted in one application package. Complete application packages must include the following:

* Signed and dates application including signature of parent of guardian, if the applicant is under the age of 18, a Completed Privacy Act Advisory Statement and Release Form
* Completed Biographical Questionnaire
* Current resume
* Submit the most recent official transcript with the school seal and/or the signature of an authorized school official
* Submit a 500-800-word essay on one (1) of the following topics.
	+ My interest in working for USDA.
	+ How I envision the scholarship will impact me personally and my future as a public servant.
	+ My experiences and perceptions about agriculture, food sciences and natural resource sciences or other related disciplines as related to agriculture.
* Submit an **original signed** and dated application

Application materials containing photocopied signatures and transcripts will not be considered for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program.

**SELECTION PROCESS**

If selected, the student will be contacted by the sponsoring Agency Coordinator. The applicant will be given an opportunity to ask questions related to the agency, the job and program expectations. Selected applicants should contact their Agency Coordinator with any unanswered questions or concerns related to the agency, summer experience or academic requirements.

*Note: The application may also be printed out and filled in by hand in black or blue ink only.*

**PRIVACY ACT ADVISORY STATEMENT**

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with this request for information. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements for this Act, please be advised:

1. Furnishing the information requested is voluntary.

2. The data will be used for selection of 1890 National Program, printing certificates, and related activities.

3. The data is maintained in a privacy act system as defined by National Archives and Records Administration under OMB.

4. Failure to complete the form will mean that you cannot be included among those candidates being considered for designation as USDA/1890 National Scholar.

I, understand that I am a candidate for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program, have read the Privacy Act Advisory Statement, and affirm my wish to be considered. In the event I am named a Scholar, permission is hereby given for the release of materials submitted by me for the use of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the 1890 Land-Grant Universities as deemed appropriate for purposes of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program.

I further consent to the release of photographs that may be taken of me, by or for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in connection with the Program. I am (check one) willing unwilling to appear on radio and/or television if such arrangements are made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in connection with the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program.

Print Name­­

Signature

Date

***Note: Original signatures only. Photocopies will not be accepted.***

**Candidate’s Biographical Questionnaire (Please Print)**

The questions that follow are designed to collect information about your background, your interests, and your plans. Your answers to these questions will be used only in connection with your application for this scholarship program and will be divulged only to qualified persons who must see them during their duties.

**A. Biographical Information**

Legal Name (Please print in full) ­­­­­­­

 Last First Middle

Sex: Male Female

Permanent Address

City State Zip Code

Telephone (Home)

Telephone (Cell)

Age

Email Address

**B. Education**

Name of College/University currently attending

Address

City State Zip Code

Telephone

GPA (on a 4.0 unweighted scale)

1. List any other schools that you attended in the last 4 years. List the schools in order of attendance, with the one you attended most recently listed first.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name of School | Address | Attendance Dates |
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1. Name(s) of the 1890 University (or Universities) to which you are applying, in order of preference (i.e. 1 =Most Preferred, 3=Least Preferred):

 ***Note: Applicants applying to more than one 1890 Land-Grant University must submit separate 1890 National Scholars Program applications for each university.***

1. What course of study (declared major) will you pursue?

1st Choice

2nd Choice

Other Related Disciplines/Unlisted Major (please identify):

***Note: All academic disciplines may not be available at every 1890 Land-Grant University. Check the University’s academic offerings before applying for the scholarship.***

1. Have you made career decisions related to agriculture, food sciences, natural resources or related disciplines Yes No (if yes, please explain below)

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**C. Activities**

List volunteer services and jobs, you have held in the past 4 years (*be concise and limit*

*your responses to the space provided*) including summer employment

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Dates of Participation  | Title/Position Held | Awards *(include monetary, plaques, or letters of recommendation or appreciation)* |
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**D. Essay**

Submit a 500-800-word essay describing: 1) your interest in working for USDA, 2) How do you envision the scholarship will impact you and your future as a public servant, and your experience and perceptions about agriculture, food sciences, and natural resources sciences. ***Notes: You may provide your essay below or you may attach a type-written copy of your essay to the application.***

**Signatory Page**

**Final note: Review this form to make sure you have answered all questions completely. Proofread, spellcheck and edit your responses for completeness**

**Certification**

I certify that I completed this application and that all statements are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a false statement could eliminate me from consideration for this scholarship.

Print Legal Name

Signature

Date Signed

***Note: This form must be postmarked for return to each 1890 Land-Grant University of your choice no later than Friday January 31, 2020.***

**Application Checklist**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | I have read and understand the eligibility requirements and meet all eligibility criteria. |  |
| **2.** | I am submitting an original application and transcript to each 1890 University of interest *(see mailing addresses on page 14-15 of this application).* |  |
| **3.** | I have applied for admission or am currently enrolled at each 1890 Land-Grant University of interest. |  |
| **4.** | I have read and completed the Candidate’s Biographical Information section. |  |
| **5.** | I have enclosed two letters of recommendation from the following:1. Department Head, Dean of College, or one of the University Vice Presidents
2. College Professor who has served as an instructor in one of my courses
 |  |
| **6.** | I have enclosed a 500-800-word essay describing:1. My interest in working for USDA,
2. How I envision the scholarship will impact me and my future as a public servant,
3. My experiences and perceptions about agriculture, food sciences, and natural resource sciences.
 |  |
| **7.** | I have signed and dated the application (**original signature only**). |  |
| **8.** | I understand that the application package **must be postmarked** no later than **midnight Friday January 31, 2020** for consideration for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program. |  |

**Voluntary Marketing Survey**

How did you hear about the USDA /1890 National Scholars Program?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Check all that apply | Event or Person | Location or Name |
|  | College Fair(s) |  |
|  | Academic/ Financial Advisor |  |
|  | Professor |  |
|  | Direct Mail/Email |  |
|  | USDA Employee |  |
|  | Place of Worship |  |
|  | Social Media |  |
|  | Other (Specify) |  |

**1890 Land-Grant Universities Liaison Directory**

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison North Carolina A&T University

1601 East Market Street

107 B.C. Webb Hall

Greensboro, NC 27411

(202) 281-8214

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison

Langston University

School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences 100 Success Drive, Room V 115

Langston, OK 73050

(202) 263-9209

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Florida A&M University

1740 South Martin L. King Jr., Boulevard Room 217, S. Perry-Paige Building Tallahassee, FL 32307-4100

(202) 510-6301

Attn: USDA/I 890 Program Liaison Delaware State University

CARS Ag Annex, Room 108F

Dover, DE 1991

(202) 308-7687

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Central State University 1400 Brush Row Road

McLin Building, Room 210 Wilberforce, OH 45384

(202) 596-0140

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Alabama A&M University

Post Office Box 1087

Normal, AL 35762

(202) 570-3926

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Lincoln University

818 Lee Drive; 108 Bennett Hall Jefferson City, MO 65101

(202) 264-0736

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Kentucky State University Cooperative Extension Facility

400 East Main Street, Room 221 Frankfort, KY 40601

(202) 570-5202

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Alcorn State University

1000 ASU Drive, Room 1139

104 Agriculture Science Building Lorman, MS 39096

(202) 596-0478

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Fort Valley State University

1005 State University Drive

Pettigrew Center, Room 244

 Fort Valley, GA 31030

(202) 253-4218

**1890 Land-Grant Universities Liaison Directory**

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison

Prairie View A&M University

P. O. Box 2736

Prairie View, TX 77446

(202) 302-4712

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Tuskegee University

College of Agriculture, Environmental and Nutritional Sciences

Campbell Hall Room 103

Tuskegee, AL 36088

(202) 306-9884

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison University of Maryland Eastern Shore One Backbone Road

Hazel Hall, Room 3002

Princess Anne, MD 21853

(202) 306-7368

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison

South Carolina State University

300 College Avenue, N.E.

P.O. Box 7246

Orangeburg, SC 29117

(202) 596-4442

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Virginia State University

P.O. Box 9081; 1 Hayden Drive

L. Douglas Wilder Building, Room 202C Petersburg, VA 23806

(202) 596-0301

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison University of Arkansas Pine Bluff 1200 North University Drive

Mail Slot: 4806

Pine Bluff, AR 71611-2799

(202) 306-9810

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison West Virginia State University

100 Curtis House

P .0. Box 1000 Institute, WV 25112-1000 (202) 596-4605

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Tennessee State University

3500 John Merritt Boulevard

Ag Science Dept., Room 20

P.O. Box 9629

Nashville, TN 37209-1561

(202) 596-0226

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Southern University and A&M College Fisher Hall, Room 102

Baton Rouge, LA 70813

(202) 302-7255

For questions related to this application, please contact:

**The Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement - USDA/1890 Program**

1400 Independence Ave. SW., Stop 0601 Washington, D.C. 20250 Telephone Number: (202) 720-6350 Fax Number: (202) 720-7136

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