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UNIVERSITY  
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MĀNOA

## Trellis Fund

To graduate students at the University of Florida, North Carolina State University, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and the University of California, Davis:

The Horticulture Innovation Lab Trellis Fund connects U.S. graduate students to agricultural NGOs, universities and research agencies in the developing world. Each Trellis student will be assigned to a single developing-world organization and will work with that organization to provide relevant, science-based information to address problems facing their beneficiaries. This year there are two types of projects students may apply for, Technical Proposals and Project Development Concept Notes.

### **Purpose**

Small organizations in developing countries identify a horticultural problem facing local farmers and propose a project to the Horticulture Innovation Lab's Trellis Fund. The Trellis Fund matches selected organizations with graduate students who have skills relevant to the proposed project. The students then work with the funded organization to help the project connect with information and to reach their goals. In this way organizations are able to extend new ideas, information, and technologies to their communities, while graduate students gain hands-on experience in international development and applied research. Organizations and graduate students are encouraged to form long-term connections. Trellis Fund projects may address farmer issues related to irrigation, fertilization, other aspects of production, pest management, postharvest practices, nutrition, or marketing in relation to fruits, vegetables and high-value horticultural crops.

### **Award**

Selected students will be provided air travel, reimbursed for lodging, visas and vaccines, and provided a \$300 fellowship for additional project support.

### **Obligations**

- Coordinate work plan with organization in advance of travel. Conduct necessary background research.
- Travel to country of host organization and complete activities (1-2 weeks).
- Support organization via email and other electronic methods upon return (100 hours).

- Submit final report and documents to host organization and Trellis Fund.
- Complete an exit survey/interview and provide media from project.

Students applying to **Technical Proposals** should be prepared to assist with technical work on the project topic with the host organization. These students will travel to the host country **once**. Students applying to **Project Development Concept Notes** should be prepared to assist with both proposal development AND technical work on the project topic with the host organization. These students will travel to the host country **twice**, first to work on project development and second, pending the submission of a successful proposal, to provide technical assistance for the project.

### **Selection**

U.S. graduate students will be selected based on how well their expertise reflects the needs of the approved projects.

### **Application Components**

Please submit two documents to apply to the Trellis Fund. Documents may be submitted as either Microsoft Word documents or PDFs. These documents should be emailed as attachments to [trellisfund@gmail.com](mailto:trellisfund@gmail.com) by **December 3, 2014**. Please use the subject line: "Trellis Application – Your Last Name".

#### Document 1: Basic Information and Statement of Interest

Full Name (first and last)

University

Field of Study

Major Professor, Title, Department/Program, Email Address, Phone Number

Other Reference, Title, Department/Program/Organization, Email Address, Phone Number

Expected Graduation Date

Statement of Interest - For each project you are applying for, explain a) the reasons you are interested in the project and b) how your background fits the needs of the project.

You may apply for one, two or three projects, but no more than that. If you are applying to more than one project, please put your first-ranked project in the space for project 1, your second-ranked project in the space for project 2, and your third-ranked project in the space for project 3.

Project 1 Title:

Project 1 (300 words maximum)

Project 2 Title:

Project 2 (300 words maximum)

Project 3 Title:

Project 3 (300 words maximum)

## Document 2: Curriculum Vita

Attach CV as separate document.

### **Dates**

Call for student applications – November 3, 2014

Student applications due – December 3, 2014

Student application notifications sent – Late December 2014

Organization-student matching completed – February 15, 2014

Concept Note Track students travel – Late March - April 2015

Concept Note organizations turn in developed Technical Proposals – Mid May - June 1

Notification to Concept Note-Technical Proposal organizations – Mid-June - June 30

Successful Concept Note students return to host organization to help implement project – Summer/Fall 2015

Technical Proposal students travel to meet partner organization and client farmers – Spring – Fall 2015

All students complete 100 hours of electronic support, exit interviews, and reports – Fall 2015

### **Project Descriptions**

Please see our website at <http://horticulture.ucdavis.edu/main/trellis.html> to view full project descriptions. For this application cycle there are projects in the following countries:

Bangladesh

Ethiopia

Ghana

Guatemala

Kenya

Malawi

Mali

Nepal

Zambia

Please contact us at [trellisfund@gmail.com](mailto:trellisfund@gmail.com) if you have any questions about the application process or if you would like information on past participants from your university. You can also browse past Trellis projects on our website (see link above).

Sincerely,

The Horticulture Innovation Lab Trellis Fund Team

[trellisfund@gmail.com](mailto:trellisfund@gmail.com)

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Horticulture

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