

United States Department of Agriculture

USDA/1890 National Scholars Program 2021 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)	North Carolina A&T State University (North Carolina)
Alcorn State University (Mississippi)	Prairie View A&M University (Texas)
Central State University (Ohio)	South Carolina State University (South Carolina)
Delaware State University (Delaware)	Southern A&M University (Louisiana)
Florida A&M University (Florida)	Tennessee State University (Tennessee)
Fort Valley State University (Georgia)	Tuskegee University (Alabama)
Kentucky State University (Kentucky)	University of Arkansas Pine Bluff (Arkansas)
Langston University (Oklahoma)	University of Maryland Eastern Shore (Maryland)
Lincoln University (Missouri)	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 seq 7 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 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 dated application including signature of parent or 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 describing:
 - 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.

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

2. 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):

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

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

3. 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.

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

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 <i>(include monetary, plaques, or letters of recommendation or appreciation)</i>

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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 January 31, 2021.

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 (<i>see mailing addresses on page 13-14 of this application</i>).	
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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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
Alabama A&M University
Post Office Box 1087
Normal, AL 35762
(202) 570-3926

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison
Fort Valley State University
1005 State University Drive
Pettigrew Center, Room 244
Fort Valley, GA 31030
(202) 253-4218

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
Kentucky State University
Cooperative Extension Facility
400 East Main Street, Room 221
Frankfort, KY 40601
(202) 570-5202

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
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
Delaware State University
CARS Ag Annex, Room 108F
Dover, DE 1991
(202) 308-7687

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
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/1890 Program Liaison
North Carolina A&T University
1601 East Market Street
107 B.C. Webb Hall
Greensboro, NC 27411
(202) 281-8214

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
South Carolina State University
300 College Avenue, N.E.
P.O. Box 7246
Orangeburg, SC 29117
(202) 596-4442

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison
Southern University and A&M College
Fisher Hall, Room 102
Baton Rouge, LA 70813
(202) 302-7255

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 West
Virginia State University
100 Curtis House
P. O. Box 1000 Institute, WV 25112-1000
(202) 596-4605

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 Arkansas Pine Bluff
1200 North University Drive
Mail Slot: 4806
Pine Bluff, AR 71611-2799
(202) 306-9810

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
Virginia State University
P.O. Box 9081; 1 Hayden Drive
L. Douglas Wilder Building, Room 202C
Petersburg, VA 23806
(202) 596-0301

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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