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# United States Department of Agriculture

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## USDA/1890 National Scholars Program

### 2019 COLLEGE APPLICATION



## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 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, rising college sophomores, and juniors 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 1890 National Scholars Program partners with USDA agencies and staff offices to provide scholars with professional and educational opportunities. A sponsoring Agency Coordinator will be assigned to the scholar. The program Agency Coordinator will be the primary point of contact of scholar. The 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). Scholars accepted into the program will be appointed using the Schedule A(r) authority (5CFR 213.3202) and are not eligible for noncompetitive conversion to full-time employment upon graduation. However, all USDA/1890 National Scholars are required to compete for appropriate employment immediately after graduation. If selected, commit to at least one year of service to USDA for each year of financial assistance provided.<sup>1</sup> The USDA/1890 National Scholar is required to:

- ✓ Compete for appropriate employment immediately after graduation . If selected, commit to at least one year of service to USDA for each year of financial assistance provided .
- ✓ 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 Agency before the end of the period for which the Scholar has agreed to continue in the service of 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 the their summer 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 Program and best wishes in your pursuit of academic excellence!

*Specific details of this "service requirement" will be outlined in the agreement entered into by the selected Scholar, the University at which*

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*the scholar is matriculated, and the USDA sponsoring agency. The "service requirement" is subject to change.*

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## USDA/1890 NATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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### OVERVIEW

The USDA/1890 National 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 and attending one of the 1890 Land-Grant Universities in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in agriculture, food sciences, natural resource science, or a related academic discipline(s). The 1890 Land-Grant Universities are:

Alabama A&M University	North Carolina A&T State University
Alcorn State University (Mississippi)	Prairie View A&M University (Texas)
Central State University (Ohio)	South Carolina State University
Delaware State University	Southern A&M University (Louisiana)
Florida A&M University Fort Valley	Tennessee State University
State University (Georgia)	Tuskegee University (Alabama)
Kentucky State University	University of Arkansas Pine Bluff
Langston University (Oklahoma)	University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Lincoln University (Missouri)	Virginia State University
	West Virginia State University

### AUTHORITIES

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- 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.



## PURPOSE

The purposes of the USDA/1890 National Program are:

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

## OBJECTIVE

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The USDA/1890 National Program offers scholarships to U.S. citizens who are seeking a bachelor's degree at one of the 1890 Land-Grant Universities pursuing a bachelor's degree 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:

Water Resource Management	Forestry and Related Sciences
Agricultural Economics	Food Sciences/Technology
Agricultural Engineering/Mechanics	Home Economics/Nutrition
Agricultural Production and Technology Agronomy or Crop Science	Horticulture
Animal Sciences/Botany	Natural Resources Management
Business Management Farm and Range Management	Soil Conservation/Soil Science
Financial Management	Other related disciplines, (e.g., non-medical biological sciences, pre-veterinary medicine, computer sciences)

## AWARD

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

## GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

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Applicant must:

- ✓ Be a U.S. citizen
- ✓ Have been admitted and enrolled as a full-time student in one of the 1890 Land-Grant Universities.
- ✓ 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 other related disciplines.
- ✓ Demonstrate leadership and community service.
- ✓ Submit a current official transcript with the school seal and/or the signature of an authorized school official (preferably through the most recent semester).
- ✓ Submit a 500-800 word essay describing: 1) your interest in working for USDA; 2) how you envision the scholarship will impact you and your future as a public servant, and 3) your experience and perceptions about agriculture, food sciences, and natural resource sciences.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

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All application materials must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, January 31 2019 and delivered to the USDA/1890 Program Liaison at the University or Universities selected by the applicant.

## SELECTION PROCESS

If selected, the student will be contact by the sponsoring Agency Coordinator 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 agency, summer experience or academic requirements.

Applications Must Be Postmarked by Tuesday, January 31 2019.

## INSTRUCTIONS

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Only complete application packages submitted by the deadline of Tuesday, January 31, 2019 will be considered. Complete application packages must include the following:

- ✓ Signed Privacy Act Advisory Statement and Release Form
- ✓ Completed Biographical Questionnaire
- ✓ Current Resume
- ✓ Two letters of recommendation (one from either the Department Head, Dean, or Vice President of your College or University, and one from a College or University Professor who has instructed the applicant)
- ✓ 500-800 word essay on the designated topics
- ✓ Official transcript with raised seal and/or the signature of an authorized college/ university official
- ✓ Original signed and dated application

All documents must be submitted in one application package.

The application package must be postmarked by the application deadline Tuesday, January 31, 2019. Applicants are responsible for ensuring the current official transcript is submitted by the application deadline.

All application materials must be originals, with original signatures, seals and/or stamps. Application materials containing photocopied signatures and transcripts will not be considered for the USDA/1890 National Scholarship Program.

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

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

Applications Must Be Postmarked by Tuesday, January 31, 2019.

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

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**PRIVACY ACT ADVISORY STATEMENT**

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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 this information requested is voluntary.
2. The data will be used for selection of USDA/1890 National Scholars, printing of certificates and related activities.
3. The data is maintained in a privacy act system of records as defined by National Archives and Records Administration under Office of Management and Budget (OMB).
4. Failure to complete the form will mean that you cannot be included among those candidates being considered for designation as a USDA/1890 National Program.

**Affirmation of Candidacy and Authorization for Release of Information and/or Photographs**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that I am a candidate for the honor of USDA/1890 National Scholar, and 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 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 Program.

Printed name: Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Candidate's Biographical Questionnaire

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 in the course of their duties.

### A. Biographical Information

Legal Name (Please print in full): \_\_\_\_\_

Last

First

Middle

Sex: F      M

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street

city/town

State

Zip

Telephone Numbers:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home:

Cell: Age:

Are you a U.S. Citizen?      Yes      No

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Education

1. Name of College/University currently attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City/Town

State

Zip

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

GPA: (on a 4.0 unweighted scale): \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Grade point average should match supporting documentation submitted with the application. Only applicants meeting minimum GPA criteria will be considered for the USDA/1890 National Program scholarship. Please do not submit an application if you do not meet the criteria.*

2. 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

3. Name(s) of the 1890 Land-Grant University (or Universities) you are attending or to which you are applying. If accepted at multiple 1890 Land-Grant Universities, please list 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 USDA/1890 national Scholars applications for each University.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

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

1<sup>st</sup> choice: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Related Discipline/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.*

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

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C. Extracurricular 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	Participation Dates	Title/Position held	Awards ( <i>include monetary, plaques, or letters of commendation 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 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 resource sciences.

*Note: 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, spell-check 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 Your 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 **Tuesday, January 31, 2019.**

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 15 of this application</i> ).	
3.	I have applied for admission or am currently enrolled at each 1890 Historically Black 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 <b>must be postmarked</b> no later than <b>midnight Tuesday, January 31, 2019</b> for consideration for the USDA/1890 National Program.	

Voluntary Marketing Survey

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

Check (all that apply)	Event	Location
	College Fair(s)	
	Academic/Financial Advisor	
	Professor	
	Direct Mail/ Email	
	USDA Employee	
	Place of worship	
	Other(please 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  
Alcorn State University  
P.O. Box 314  
Lorman, MS 39096  
(202) 596-0478

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  
Delaware State University  
CARS Ag Annex, Room 108F  
1200 North Dupont Highway  
Dover, DE 1991  
(202) 308-7687

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  
Fort Valley State University  
1005 State University Drive  
Pettigrew Center, Room 244  
Fort Valley, GA 31030  
(202) 253-4218

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  
Langston University  
School of Agriculture and Applied  
Sciences  
100 Success Drive, Room V115  
Langston, OK 73050  
(202) 263-9209

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  
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  
Prairie View A&M University  
Agriculture and Business Building,  
Room 402  
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  
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  
30665 Student Services Center Lane  
Trigg Hall, Room 1137  
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

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
West Virginia State University  
100 Curtis House  
P.O. Box 1000  
Institute, WV 25112-1000

(202) 596-4605

OMB No.: 0503-0015

For any questions related to this application, please contact:

Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement

USDA/1890 Programs

1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Stop 0601

Washington, DC 20250

Telephone Number: (202) 720-6350

Fax Number: (202) 720-7136

Email: 1890init@usda.gov

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