Host Institutions

Host institutions may include NGOs, private sector companies, research centers, universities, and government ministries. Hosts can be local entities or larger, international organizations involved in development work.

2017-2018 Host institutions and projects can be found in the RIFA Project Catalog.

Mentors

Mentors are an integral part of the RIFA Program. Mentors may be professors, emeriti, or non-faculty academics affiliated with the University of California. Mentors work to build projects with the host institutions and collaborate with students to create their implementation plans, build connections with their partners and follow their progress throughout the project cycle.

Project Staff

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Providing international development project learning opportunities focused on agriculture, food systems and accompanying social and economic issues in developing countries.
The Research and Innovation Fellowship for Agriculture (RIFA) offers early-career professionals enrolled in agricultural and development-oriented graduate programs at all University of California campuses the opportunity to plan, engage and implement two to six-month-long international projects in developing countries.

RIFA connects motivated students with unique skill sets to project opportunities that have been developed in collaboration with UC faculty or staff. By working with faculty and UC programs to identify in-country hosts we aim to offer projects that integrate RIFA into the UC landscape and build long-term relationships that enhance the UC’s global impact.

**2017-2018 Grad Student Timeline**

- **January 1** RIFA Catalog opens
- **February 28** Applications due to ucrifa.applications@gmail.com
- **Feb 28 - Mar 5** RIFA project review
- **Mar 6 - 23** Student interviews
- **Mar 26** Fellowship decisions announced
- **May 4 - 8** Project planning & preparation short course
- **June 1 - Mar 1, 2019** Fellows travel, complete projects, and participate in post-project evaluations

**Fellow Requirements**

- Fellows must attend the intensive project preparation short course in Northern California
- Fellows must have a UC staff or faculty mentor
- Fellows must contribute to RIFA communications platforms and complete monthly reports, a final report and an exit survey
- Fellows must complete an implementation plan before in-country fellowship begins

**Award Benefits**

Students will receive as a block sum:

- Airfare
- Health insurance and pre-travel vaccination costs
- $200 for minor project costs
- $1,000 stipend for each month in country