

Research and Innovation Fellowship for Agriculture

The Program:

The **Research and Innovation Fellowship for Agriculture** (RIFA) program connects NGOs, research institutes and universities in developing countries with Master's and PhD level fellows from campuses across the University of California that possess expertise in agriculture, food systems and associated social and environmental issues. Fellows work with organizations to prepare materials and plan their projects prior to departure, spend **2-6 months in-country** with their hosts, and then complete final deliverables after returning home.

In its first 3 years, RIFA has sent 67 fellows to 24 countries. Projects have ranged from researching bean breeding strategies at CIAT in Colombia and mapping coffee value chains with CRS in Honduras to developing an on-farm welfare assessment tool for dairy farms in Sri Lanka with the University of Peradeniya.



Megan McCaghey evaluates maize in South Africa for grey leaf spot.

The Opportunity:

Now in our 4th year RIFA is looking to identify host organizations that would be interested in using the expertise of our fellows to help build out new or ongoing projects and programs. Student fellows are funded by our program for their airfare, \$1,000/month in-country for stipend and \$200 towards project costs.

The Timeline:

Date	Event
Dec. 15, 2017	Host applications due. After each application is received, RIFA management will call hosts to clarify questions and verify applications.
Dec 1- Jan 1, 2017	Host profiles are uploaded online to our website ip.ucdavis.edu/scholars-and-students/RIFA/ for students to browse
Jan 1- Feb 28, 2018	Student outreach
Feb. 28, 2018	Student applications due to ucrifa.applications@gmail.com .
Mar 1- Mar 20, 2018	Hosts are given student applicant lists, interview students and create a list of preferred fellows.
Mar 20- Mar 23	Final matches evaluated and selected for funding by RIFA management and external reviewers.
March 23, 2018	2018 round funding decisions announced
May 4-May 8, 2018	4 day intensive project planning and preparation course
June 1, 2018-Mar 1, 2019	Fellows travel for periods ranging from 2 to 6 months to their host countries.

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