

# Tatter Family Entomology Graduate Fellowship

The MSU Entomology Department is excited to invite applications for the Tatter Family Entomology Graduate Fellowship (TFEGF). The TFEGF is intended to recruit and retain outstanding graduate students to MSU Entomology.

## Fellowship Details

The TFEGF provides:

- Research Assistantship Stipend & [Benefits](#) (\$35,000 for the 2026-2027 academic year)
- Full Tuition Support ([current rates](#))
- \$5000 in annual Research and Travel Support

Fellowships are awarded for one year and renewable for a second year based on program progress and student need. Applicants can propose research in any area of entomology, but they must identify a Faculty Mentor within MSU Entomology with appropriate expertise in their area of interest. In order for an application to be complete, a Faculty Mentors must confirm their willingness and capacity to serve as graduate mentor for the applicant.

One fellowship will be awarded in Fall Semester 2026 and one in Fall Semester 2027. Thereafter, the TFEGF will be awarded every two years.

## Eligibility

Students must have applied to or be currently enrolled in an MSU Entomology Graduate Program (MS or PhD). New applicants must have identified an MSU Entomology Faculty Mentor who will attest to their ability to accept the applicant into their laboratory if they are selected for the TFEGF.

Current MSU Entomology students must be in good academic standing and be up to date on RECR training requirements.

Students may not receive the TFEGF for more than two years total during their degree program.

## Application Process

All application steps must be completed by: November 21, 2025

The TFEGF application is a two-step process. *First*, you must submit the application materials, and second, you must receive certification from your prospective faculty mentor. Students not currently enrolled in an MSU Entomology Graduate Program will submit their application materials along with their MSU Graduate School Applications. Students currently enrolled in an MSU Entomology Graduate Program will submit their application through the TFEGF submission site, which will be available via the [fellowship website](#) on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Second*, all applicants will request certification from their proposed Faculty Mentor through the TFEGF submission site. Your application will not be considered complete without mentor certification.

**For students not currently enrolled in an MSU Entomology Graduate Program:**

- Complete the MSU Graduate School [Application](#) and specify your Entomology Graduate Program.
  - [Application Fee Waivers](#) are available through the Big 10 Academic Alliance for eligible applicants on a case-by-case basis. If the application fee is a hardship, and you do not qualify for a FreeApp waiver, please contact MSU Entomology.
- Curriculum Vitae, Academic Statement, Personal Statements, and Recommendation Letters should be submitted with your MSU Graduate School Application following the format described below.
  - The MSU Graduate School Application requires three (3) letters of recommendation.

**For all applicants, including prospective and currently enrolled students:**

- When submitting your Academic and Personal statements, they must conform to these specifications:
  - Standard 8.5” x 11” page size
  - 11pt or higher font size
  - 1” margins on all sides with no headers or footers
  - No less than single-spacing
  - Academic Statement
    - Maximum length: 2 pages, including citations, figures, and images
    - Should describe your proposed graduate research project including justification, brief methods, and anticipated results and impact
  - Personal Statement
    - Maximum length: 2 pages, including citations, figures, and images
    - Should include information on your professional preparation, your interest in entomology, why MSU Entomology is an appropriate fit for these interests, and your future goals
- Curriculum Vitae should follow the same format as Academic and Personal Statements, but there is no page limitation.
- Two (2) recommendation letters are required for the TFEGF, and up to three (3) can be submitted.
  - Recommendation letters should follow the same format as Academic and Personal Statements, should be signed by the letter writer and include their name, professional title, department, and institution, as appropriate.
  - Recommendation letters should not exceed 2 pages.
  - Proposed Faculty Mentors may write recommendation letters but are not required to be among the recommenders.
  - *For Current MSU Entomology Students:* Recommendation letters should be sent directly to Dr. Hannah Burrack, [burrackh@msu.edu](mailto:burrackh@msu.edu).

## **Review Criteria**

Applications will be reviewed by members of the MSU Entomology Department Advisory Committee and Graduate Committee.

Reviewers will consider the technical aspects of the proposed research, including project significance, feasibility, and fit with faculty mentor's area of expertise. Reviewers will also consider applicant academic preparation and record, prior experience, entomological interest, and future career goals.

Highly reviewed applications not selected for the TFEGF will be submitted for consideration for other MSU fellowship opportunities including the [University Distinguished Fellowship](#), the Plant Science Fellowship, and the [Academic Achievement Graduate Assistantship](#), as eligible.

## **Award Conditions**

An admissions offer will be made to the selected awardee by January 5, 2026. If the selected awardee does not accept the offer before March 1, 2026, the fellowship will be offered to the next highest reviewed applicant. Students must begin their first fellowship year no later than Fall Semester 2026.

Contact Hannah Burrack, Professor & Chairperson, for additional information:  
[burrackh@msu.edu](mailto:burrackh@msu.edu)