

Guidelines for Preparation of Letters of Interest For Legume Scholars Program Scholarship Award

Nominated candidates for Legume Scholars Program Awards are required to prepare and to submit a “Letter of Interest” to accompany the nomination package.

The Letter of Interest should present the candidate’s personal views on the following topics:

- Personal statement of professional goals, including the motivation for pursuing an MSc or a PhD degree program.
- Experience in working in the production, processing or marketing of grain legumes, or in conducting research on grain legumes (provide specifics about this experience and how it influenced one’s professional goals).
- Identify a disciplinary area of interest for graduate study (e.g., agriculture economics, crop physiology, food science, gender studies, nutrition, plant breeding and genetics, plant protection, soil science, the social sciences, etc.) and a potential topic of interest for research focus (illustrative examples of potential research areas might include biological nitrogen fixation, sustainable seed systems, markers for resistance genes to abiotic or biotic stresses, impact assessment, climate change effects on insect pests and integrated control strategies, gut microbiome health, etc.).
- Personal assessment of qualifications to successfully complete a research-intensive graduate program.
- Commitment to pursuing a professional career focused on research on grain legumes, if chosen as a Legume Scholar.
- Commitment to returning to one’s home country following graduation to pursue a career in a National Agriculture Research Organization, an agricultural university or at a CGIAR Center within one’s home country/region.

The Letter of Interest should be typewritten in English using WORD (Times New Roman, 11 pt font, 1.15-inch spacing, 1-inch margins) and not exceed two pages (8.5” x 11”) in length. A signed copy of the Letter of Interest should be scanned (in PDF format, if possible) and included in the Nomination Package submitted by the nominating scientist.

Legume Scholars Program Nomination Packages (See CHECKLIST) should be sent in PDF format as attachments to an email to the Legume Scholars Program Office at legumescholar@anr.msu.edu by Friday, December 19, 2014.