

## FAO/PUSH Student Researcher Programme

LOCATION: Washington, D.C.

### Description

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been at the forefront of supporting and promoting sustainable agriculture toward fulfillment of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals - ensuring food security for all and eradicating hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. Additionally, FAO has long recognized the value of higher education institutions as the discoverers, curators, and disseminators of knowledge, research, and best practices in the areas of agriculture and nutrition.

In early 2014 Auburn's Hunger Solutions Institute (HSI), in partnership with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and FAO, hosted a Pre-summit at its annual Universities Fighting World Hunger (UFWH) Summit to discuss the collective role of universities in fighting hunger. This gathering led to a consensus statement called the *Presidents' Commitment to Food and Nutrition Security* that has now been signed by more than 100 university presidents and chancellors on five continents, establishing a framework for collaboration and a blueprint for an action agenda. The signatories of this statement are referred to as Presidents United to Solve Hunger (PUSH). For a list of PUSH institutions, go to: [www.pushtosign.org](http://www.pushtosign.org).

The PUSH consortium of universities, committed to using its resources for teaching, research, outreach, and student engagement to promote local and global food and nutrition security, has much in common with FAO's stated strategic goal of "creating and sharing critical information about food, agriculture, and natural resources in the form of global public goods."

Recognizing the congruence of interest in promoting issues related to food and nutrition security, the FAO Liaison Office for North America (FAOLOW) and PUSH are collaborating to sponsor the **FAO/PUSH Student Researcher Programme**. This unique opportunity will enable one graduate student per semester from a university belonging to the PUSH consortium (viz. Fall 2018, Winter/Spring 2019 or Summer 2019) to work on one of the following research areas with the exact topic for research within these areas to be chosen and formulated in consultation with the faculty advisor and in concurrence with FAOLOW:

- Food loss and waste in the United States and its implications for food security
- Food and nutrition security in the United States with a focus on the social and economic impacts of malnutrition, including obesity
- Fisheries and aquaculture focusing on fisheries and aquaculture sustainability and its importance for global food security and nutrition
- Climate change—challenges and opportunities for global food and nutrition security
- Biotechnology—emerging role in a food insecure world.
- Women in Agriculture – Gender Equality still a challenge
- Sustainable Development Goals – can the world deliver by 2030?

- Agriculture Trade & Small Holder Farmers – the missing link.

A **\$3,000 (USD) research grant** will be provided by PUSH as provided for under the LOA to the awardees to aid in carrying out the proposed project. Upon completion of the project, awardees will be required to submit a detailed report/manuscript outlining the project's findings to FAOLW. On completion of the research, the awardees will be given an opportunity to make a presentation of their findings at a roundtable organized by FAOLW in Washington DC.

### **Application Guidelines**

All submission packets must include:

1. **Research proposal, maximum four (4) pages, double spaced** outlining the selected topic, its implications for food security, and how the research will advance FAO's mission
2. **Budget** detailing all anticipated project costs
3. **Abstract** (one page, double spaced)
4. **Three letters of recommendation**, including one from the university president or designated PUSH point
5. **Curriculum vitae**
6. **Letter of financial support** from the hosting University/Student showing readiness of the University/Student to bear all the associated cost, including travel, lodging, medical insurance, etc.
7. **Specification of proposed research semester** (Fall 2018; Winter/Spring 2019, or Summer 2019)

### **Selection Criteria and Process**

- Applicants must be currently enrolled in a graduate degree program (master's or doctoral) within the PUSH university consortium.
- Selection Process:
  - FAOLW and PUSH representatives will review all submissions and select the finalists.
  - Award announcements will be on the following dates:
    - **Fall 2018 placement on *June 30, 2018*** (starting date TBD)
    - **Winter/Spring 2019 placement on *October 30, 2018*** (starting date TBD)
    - **Summer 2019 placement on *March 30, 2019*** (starting date TBD)
  - PUSH will promote the award and work with FAOLW and the student researcher's home institution to publicize the program and the study results.
  - FAOLW will provide office space in its Washington, DC Office.
  - PUSH will coordinate with student the receipt of the \$3,000 research grant.
- Deadline:
  - Applications must be received by **June 15, 2018** for Fall 2018; **October 15, 2018** for Winter/Spring 2019; and **March 15, 2019** for Summer 2019.
  - To apply, please send application packets to [kara.newby@auburn.edu](mailto:kara.newby@auburn.edu)

- Questions should be addressed to [Edona.dervisholli@fao.org](mailto:Edona.dervisholli@fao.org)