

Open Letter to Students interested in Texas A&M University's Department of Horticultural Sciences Graduate Programs:

Thank you for your interest in the Department of Horticultural Sciences graduate program at Texas A&M University. Application deadlines for consideration of Departmental Graduate Teaching Assistantships for fall semesters are the preceding March 15. Applications for spring or summer semesters should be completed by September 15 of the preceding year. These deadlines can be somewhat flexible if you can find a faculty member to work with you who will be funding you on a grant-supported Graduate Research Assistantship. Highly competitive students looking to apply for University Fellowships and Scholarships should have their applications in by December 15 for fall semesters of the following year. University Fellowships and Scholarships are awarded early in spring for the coming fall.

The most critical aspect of your application to the Department of Horticultural Sciences at TAMU is contacting the faculty to find someone to work with. Investigate the faculty to determine which members are conducting research in your area of interest, and contact them via email to determine whether they have any available positions. The faculty's contact information can be found at the Department of Horticulture Sciences' website: <https://hortsciences.tamu.edu/>

Information on the application process and requirements can be found at the Department of Horticulture Sciences' graduate admission page: <https://hortsciences.tamu.edu/graduate-admissions/>

Information on admissions at Texas A&M University can be found here: <https://admissions.tamu.edu/>

Successful applicants to the Department's graduate programs typically have an undergraduate GPR of 3.00 or substantially better, strong letters of support for admission to the graduate program from faculty mentors, a well-written statement of purpose, high-impact experiential learning activities, and in the case of international students strongly demonstrated competency in English via TOEFL scores or other testing instruments. The graduate school typically requires a minimum official TOEFL (International students only) score, a minimum TOEFL i-BT score of 80, or a minimum TOEFL Essentials score of 8.5.

All assistantships are awarded on a competitive basis. Some teaching assistantships are available from the Department and are assigned by the Associate Department Head for Graduate Programs on the recommendation of the teaching faculty. Nearly all research assistantships are funded from grants held by individual faculty members. Thus, you should inquire about the availability of research assistantships from the individual faculty

whose programs interest you. You should only go to the expense of applying if there is a program in your area of interest that has an opening for a new graduate student.

Information about the department, degrees offered, biographical information about our faculty and their research programs, and policies governing our graduate program can be found on our site at: <https://hortsciences.tamu.edu/graduate-programs/>. Feel free to contact any of the faculty by email or phone to determine if they have an opening for a new graduate student.

If you decide to apply, the online application form is available here: <http://admissions.tamu.edu/>. The application fee is paid online and is completed on the Office of Admissions website. Information about university codes is also on the Admissions website.

General information about graduate studies at Texas A&M University is available on the Graduate and Professional School home page at: <https://grad.tamu.edu/>.

Once all the information has been received from Admissions, the packet will be sent to our graduate faculty so that you can be evaluated for graduate studies in our Department. This process of faculty evaluation usually requires about one to three weeks after we receive the completed packet from the Office of Graduate Studies. I will inform you as soon as possible concerning the results.

Usually, delays in the process are caused by delayed receipt of letters of recommendation, transcripts, or TOEFL scores. Graduate Admissions will not release the application to the Department until all required information has been received.

If you have additional questions, or you may contact:

Tammy Neel
Graduate Admissions Coordinator
Email: tammy.neel@ag.tamu.edu
Phone: 979-321-7027

or

Casey Flint
Graduate Academic Advisor
Email: casey.flint@ag.tamu.edu
Phone: 979-845-7616

Sincerely,

Dr. Oscar Riera-Lizarazu

Associate Professor & Associate Head for Graduate Programs

Department of Horticultural Sciences

202 Horticulture Forest Sciences Bldg.

2133 Texas A&M University

College Station, TX 77843