GCSAA Watson Fellowship Program

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Postmark or Email Application Deadline: October 1, 2022

Return completed applications to:

GCSAA Foundation

Watson Fellowship Program

1421 Research Park Dr.

Lawrence, KS 66049

Or by email: [mwright@gcsaa.org](mailto:mwright@gcsaa.org)

Questions? Please contact:

Mischia Wright

785-832-4445

800-472-7878, ext. 4445

[mwright@gcsaa.org](mailto:mwright@gcsaa.org)

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| WATSON FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM  Application Information |
| gENERAL |
| The GCSAA Foundation is a nonprofit organization fostering sustainability through research, awareness, education, programs and scholarships for the benefit of golf course management professionals, golf facilities and the game. Among the programs administered by the Foundation is the Watson Fellowship Program.    The goal of the Watson Fellowship Program is to identify and recognize outstanding post-graduates who will be leading the industry as researchers and educators of tomorrow. Up to three $5,000 fellowships are awarded each year. In addition to the grant, winners will also receive a trip to the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show, which includes:   * Round trip coach airfare * Three nights lodging * Conference registration * Two education sessions * $200 stipend for miscellaneous travel expenses   GCSAA and the Foundation gratefully acknowledges funding by The Toro Company. Toro’s commitment to education makes this program possible. |
| CRITERIA FOR SELECTION |
| The Watson Fellowship Selection Committee evaluates each applicant on:   * Academic excellence * Potential to contribute significantly to the industry * Accomplishments in research and education * Communication skills * Committed to a career in the industry * Peer recommendations   Financial need is not a consideration in the judging. |
| eligibility |
| To be eligible, students must be:   1. In the second year or beyond of a recognized graduate program in turfgrass science or a related field. 2. Planning to pursue a career in research, sustainability, innovation, instruction or extension service in the turfgrass industry.   Past recipients are ineligible. |

| Watson Fellowship Program application | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Applicant Information | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Name: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Current address: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City: | | | | State: | | | | | Zip: | | |
| Cell Phone: | | | | Work Phone: | | | | | Email: | | |
| Hometown: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| School Name: | | | | | | Field of Study: | | | | | |
| Adviser: | | | | | | Planned degree: □ Masters □ Doctorate □ Other | | | | | |
| Projected date of degree: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Undergraduate GPA (cumulative for all colleges): |  | | Undergraduate GPA for your major field of study: | | |  | | Postgraduate GPA: | | |  |
| List all post-secondary schools attended | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Name of School** | | **Dates Attended** | | | **Date of Graduation** | | **Degree** | | | **GPA** | |
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| Please answer the following Essay questions | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Describe yourself, your background, and what drove you to be interested in your course of study? (250 words) | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1. What are the key challenges for the turf community in the next few years? (100 words) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Describe your research objectives, hypothesis, experiments and conclusions. Why are the results of your work important? (Masters candidates 400 words; Ph.D. candidates 600 words) | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1. How are the results of your work going to make a difference? What other applications are there for your research in turf or the broader science community? How will a turf manager apply the results of your research? (400 words) | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Please provide the following with your application | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. **Resumé or vitae.** Please list any journal or trade publications and/or relevant presentations. Note involvement with turf associations or other organizations. 2. **One page summary.** List research projects, educational efforts, extension programs or other relevant activity in which you have been involved. Emphasis should be placed on how these benefit golf course superintendents. 3. **Letters of professional recommendation**. Include letters from your graduate studies adviser and one other academic instructor. These letters should address your qualifications, your current academic work and your potential to make an important contribution to the advancement of education and science in golf course management. Include these with the **Faculty Adviser’s Statement.** 4. **Superintendent letter of recommendation**. Include a letter from a golf course superintendent with whom you have had professional contact. This letter should describe the previous contact and characterize your ability to contribute professional assistance to superintendents. Please include with the **Superintendent’s Statement.** 5. **Transcripts**. Please include transcripts. These do not need to be official. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Please provide local and school newspaper information | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hometown newspaper: | | | | | | Email: | | | | | |
| School newspaper: | | | | | | Email: | | | | | |
| **SIGNATURE** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| By my signature, I certify that this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that the decision of the selection committee will be final. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Signature of applicant: | | | | | | | | | Date: | | |

**SUPERINTENDENT’S STATEMENT**

Please provide to the superintendent to complete along with a letter of recommendation.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date: | | | Superintendent’s name: | | |
| Applicant’s Name: | | | University: | | |
| **DESCRIPTION OF STUDENT APPLICANT** | | | | | |
| Please describe what you believe to be most important about this student, including a description of academic and personal characteristics. The judges are particularly interested in a candidate’s intellectual promise, motivation, maturity, commitments to service, integrity, special talents, enthusiasm and initiative. Include information that will help differentiate this student from others. (You are welcome to include this information in your letter of recommendation. Just make note below if that is your intent.) | | | | | |
| **PERSONALITY AND CHARACTER EVALUATION**  Please check appropriate boxes. | | | | | |
|  | Average | Good | Very Good | Excellent | One of the best I have encountered |
| Positive Attitude |  |  |  |  |  |
| Enthusiasm |  |  |  |  |  |
| Leadership Qualities |  |  |  |  |  |
| Academic Achievements |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sense of Responsibility |  |  |  |  |  |
| High Principles and Values |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | | |
| Signature: | | | | | |

**FACULTY ADVISER’S STATEMENT**

Please provide to the adviser to complete along with a letter of recommendation.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date: | | | Adviser’s name: | | |
| Applicant’s Name: | | | University: | | |
| **DESCRIPTION OF STUDENT APPLICANT** | | | | | |
| Please describe what you believe to be most important about this student, including a description of academic and personal characteristics. The judges are particularly interested in a candidate’s intellectual promise, motivation, maturity, commitments to service, integrity, special talents, enthusiasm and initiative. Include information that will help differentiate this student from others. (You are welcome to include this information in your letter of recommendation. Just make note below if that is your intent.) | | | | | |
| **PERSONALITY AND CHARACTER EVALUATION**  Please check appropriate boxes. | | | | | |
|  | Average | Good | Very Good | Excellent | One of the best I have encountered |
| Positive Attitude |  |  |  |  |  |
| Enthusiasm |  |  |  |  |  |
| Leadership Qualities |  |  |  |  |  |
| Academic Achievements |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sense of Responsibility |  |  |  |  |  |
| High Principles and Values |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | | |
| Signature: | | | | | |