



**U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)
Minority-focused Multi-level Engagement through Research Integrated Team Projects
 Across Agriculture Disciplines (MERIT)**

APPLICATION FORM

Highlights/Requirements of the MERIT Project:

- Stipends and possible conference travel support
- Team research project involving students at different levels
- Direct communication and interaction with faculty members.
- Must be currently enrolled in a high school or at Texas A&M University-Kingsville (undergraduate or graduate)
- Must be a U.S. Citizen or National of the United States

Please Print or Type. Complete all items, if not applicable then please write 'NA' in the space.

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ **Cell #:** _____

Email Address:* _____

**Please note: You will be notified by email if selected so please type or write legibly.*

Please check one of the options and answer its related questions:

I am a current student at TAMUK; K#: _____

Current Major _____ Cumulative GPA _____

Are you an undergraduate student? Yes ___ No ___

Are you a graduate student? Yes ___ No ___

Do you currently receive Pell Grant from Texas A&M University-Kingsville? Yes ___ No ___ Not Sure ___

Are you currently qualified for Financial Aid or receiving Financial Aid? Yes ___ No ___ Not Sure ___

I am a current student at a high school;

Name of the high school: _____

Name of the School District where your high school is located: _____

What is your current level in high school? Freshman ___ Sophomore ___ Junior ___ Senior ___

Cumulative GPA: _____

Please answer the following questions:

Are you a U.S. Citizen or National of the United States? Yes ___ No ___

If selected, will you be able to come to the campus of Texas A&M University-Kingsville in person to participate in the research project? Yes ___ No ___

If selected, will you be able to participate in the research project virtually? Yes ___ No ___

(More information/questions on the next page)



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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Please provide the following demographic information as part of the application form.

Ethnicity:	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino
Race: <i>(Choose one or more responses)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian
	<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American	<input type="checkbox"/> White
	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____	
Gender:	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Disability:	<input type="checkbox"/> Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility/Orthopedic <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

How did you find this opportunity?

- From USDA website
- From TAMUK website
- From your friends or faculty/teachers
- Others: _____

To Complete Your Application, you must submit the following materials:

- 1) your completed application form (this form) with your signature,*
- 2) a current unofficial transcript,*
- 3) resume, and*
- 4) a one-page essay discussing your interests in this opportunity, any leadership activities or community service you did, your desire or interests in pursuing a career at USDA or in food, agricultural, and natural resource systems, and the potential for adding diversity*

EMAIL YOUR COMPLETE APPLICATION PACKAGE TO:

Mrs. Yi Ren, Project Manager, Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Yi.Ren@tamuk.edu
361-593-3555

Signature of Applicant

Date