



The Food Security Education Project

The Food Security Education Project (FSEP) is continuing a program to support post-graduate candidates in Nepal who wish to pursue an education for a M.Sc. or Ph.D. degree in a food-security related discipline.

Introduction

Since beginning our B.Sc. scholarship program in 2024 we have learned of the alarming decline in expert-level human resources in Nepal's agriculture and food security sectors. We are aware of the importance of the agricultural sector in Nepal's economy and the need to improve food and nutritional security for Nepali citizens. The need for well-trained human resources is essential in evaluating the challenges and providing solutions based on sound training and in-country experiences where candidates remain embedded in the Nepali context. It is here where they will develop research proposals and evaluate results that provide answers critical to Nepali problems.

COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIP and RESEARCH SUPPORT for M.Sc. or Ph.D. CANDIDATES (a two-part application)

The FSEP will partner with Nepali institutions in considering scholarships for innovative students to conduct research projects in disciplines considered the most urgent of national priorities. Candidates will be selected on a competitive basis. Priorities include but are not limited to the following:

- Plant Breeding/Crop Production/ Agronomy/Extension
- Crop Disease and Pest Management
- Soil Health and Sustainable Agricultural Practices
- Specific Food Security issues demanding urgent national attention

Guiding Principles of FSEP M.Sc./Ph.D. Scholarship and Research Awards – 2026

- Funding for M.Sc. or Ph.D. degrees in the food security sciences will be awarded for approved projects at Nepali institutions only.
- Applicants must provide a **Project Concept Proposal** and an advisor to the project *[Current M.Sc. and PhD only]*, both acceptable to your institution of choice. *(See below for further details)*
- Recruitment will be country-wide, but with attention to food insecure districts.
- Graduates must commit to service in Nepal for a minimum of three years (M.Sc.) or five years (Ph.D.) following degree completion.
- Our partnership with Nepali institutions is intended to leverage and support existing academic and research programs. *These programs include IAAS-TU, AFU, FWU, KU, NARC, and other relevant Nepali Government recognized institutions.*

The following requirements must be met to be considered for an award:

- Applicants must have a B.Sc. or M.Sc. degree, preferably in the food security sciences.
- Research must be anchored in Nepal's priority food security needs.
- Successful candidates must commit to remain in Nepal and serve for a minimum of three years (M.Sc.) or five years (Ph.D.) after graduation.
- Applicants must meet the admission requirements and gain admission to the university you expect to attend. If selected to submit Part II of this application, you will be required to provide proof of admission.
- The following elements should be included in submitting a **Project Concept Proposal**:
 - Limit your proposal to 5000 characters
 - Project title
 - Problem statement: What is the problem or challenge to be addressed
 - Region or district of implementation and targeted results
 - Clear statement of the overall goal of the proposal
 - Identify specific objectives to be pursued
 - Anticipated duration of the project (months/years)
 - Brief summary of technical details and planned activities
 - Describe anticipated results and benefits resulting from the project
 - Describe any obstacles to completion you may encounter.
 - Provide a brief budget highlighting significant cost components such as:
 - Consumables (lab or field)
 - Surveys
 - Use of infrastructure or services within your institution
 - Publication of results
 - Meetings / conferences
- Name of the university you expect to attend
- Name of the advisor(s) who will help guide you during your project. [\[Current MSc students, and Ph.D. applicants only\]](#)
- Successful concept proposals will not support:
 - International travel except in partnership with your university.
 - Attendance at conferences without presentation of research results.

Publication requirements and data supporting publication will be agreed upon between the FSEP and host institution with details to be noted in a final proposal (Part II).

Those currently pursuing a Ph.D. will not be considered for this project. First semester M.Sc. candidates are welcome to apply but will not be reimbursed for expenses already incurred.

Mode of submission:

1. Beginning Oct. 1, 2026, applications must be submitted online, at the following address. The application window will close on Oct. 31, 2026.
<https://www.foodsecurityed.org/scholarships/grad-scholarships>
2. Only one submission per applicant will be allowed.
3. This is a 2-part submission. Preliminary proposals (Part I) will be reviewed by Nepali and FSEP review teams. Selected candidates will be invited to submit a full proposal (Part II) which will include additional details including timelines and budgets. Candidates will be notified of the format and timing of the Part II application process.
4. Please send your questions to contact@foodsecurityed.org with the subject line 'MSc/PhD Application Questions'.

In preparation for submitting your application you will need the following:

1. Applicant name
2. Birth date (Day/Month/year)
3. Gender
4. Home address
5. District
6. Email address
7. Confirm email address
8. Cell phone
9. If you are an in-service applicant:
 - a. Institution where you are employed
 - i. Type: Govt./Govt. funded/University/NGO/Private
 - ii. Location of your employment
 - b. Your job title
 - c. Number of years and months on the job
 - d. Brief description of your responsibilities
 - e. If your employer is willing to provide aid toward your education, what form would this take (e.g., financial support, part-time employment, etc.)?

Academic Record

10. Please list academic institutions you attended, and any degrees granted:
 - Institution(s)
 - Degree granted: e.g., B.Sc. Agronomy, 2019; M.Sc. Plant breeding, 2021, etc.
 - GPA to date
 - List any awards you may have received
 - Please list any publications you may have authored

EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA OF FINAL AWARDS:

- Project Concept Proposals will be evaluated by members of a Nepali in-country Advisory Team and a FSEP Advisory Team.
- Quality and Nepal-focused relevance of your concept proposal.
- Leadership and community engagement.
- Please provide name, contact address, email and phone number of two references.

Anticipated calendar of events:

- 1 - Part I applications accepted online October 1-31, 2026, closing 8:00 pm Nepal time.
- 2 - Review of Part I applications will occur November 1-20, 2026. Shortlisted candidates will be notified by Nov. 21, 2026.
- 3 - Shortlisted candidates will be invited to submit Part II of their application. Part II proposals will be due by December 15, 2026, closing 8:00 pm Nepal time.
- 4 - Nepali and FSEP Review Teams will evaluate Part II proposals to be able to notify successful applicants of their scholarship awards by January 12, 2027.
- 5 - Final proposals must be approved by the FSEP Board of Directors.