

Summer Opportunities in Agricultural Research and the Environment Personal Statement and Supplemental Essay Instructions

You are required to submit two 600-700 word supplemental essays, a personal statement and a statement of commitment to diversity. You are encouraged to prepare and edit your written essays prior to initiating your online application. The essays are a crucial component of the application. Be sure to proofread and edit your responses. Share your drafts with your advisor or professors. When you complete the online supplemental application form, you can copy and paste your statements into the appropriate sections on the form.

Upload a **personal statement** as a part of your AGNR SOARE supplemental application. **This is not the same 250-word statement required for the Big Ten Athletic Alliance SROP website application.**

You must address the following statements: 600-700 word length; double-spaced, 12 font.

- Tell us about your academic and graduate education experience to date.
- Describe your academic and career aspirations?
- What are your research interests? Include the specific field of interest you will pursue in graduate school, your career goals as a scientist and explain why you desire to participate in SOARE.
- How might SOARE help you reach your educational and career goals
- Applicants are encouraged to identify two or more AGNR faculty members whose research experiences align with their interests and explain why they would like to work with them (see available faculty members in the list of participating departments).

Upload a **commitment to diversity** essay as a part of your AGNR SOARE supplemental application. **This is not the same 250-word statement required for the Big Ten Athletic Alliance SROP website application.**

You must address the following statements: 600-700 word length, double-spaced; 12 font.

- Discuss how you will contribute to the diversity of the community of SOARE scholars given this program is designed for students who are underrepresented in academia and their disciplines in graduate studies, including but not limited to those who come from education, cultural, or geographic background that is underrepresented in graduate study in the United States and at the University of Maryland.
- Specifically, address how you meet one or more of the following:
 - Come from an educational, cultural, or a geographic background that is underrepresented in graduate study in your discipline
 - Have demonstrated a commitment to diversity in the academic, professional, or civic realm through your work experience, volunteerism, and leadership or community organizations.
 - How do you plan to contribute to enhancing diversity in the agricultural sciences and in your career through your research, teaching, service or other activities?