



*The State of Alaska, Division of Agriculture's*

## 2021 GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH MINI-GRANTS

*Fiscal year 2021 Request for Proposals*

Graduate students can apply for block grants of up to \$10,000 to support Alaska grown specialty crops this year, under a federal program administered by the Alaska Division of Agriculture.

The mini-grants seek to encourage students to conduct research projects into issues related to specialty crops, such as pest identification and mitigation, regional food systems, crop efficiencies, variety trials, feasibility studies, or other topics.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines specialty crops as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits and horticulture, kelp, seaweed, and nursery crops. See:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp/specialty-crop>.

Only **graduate students** in good standing and currently **enrolled in an accredited college or university** are eligible. Individual students may apply. Students **must have a faculty advisor** and should also have an industry professional sponsor or advisor. The projects and work must take place in Alaska.

Grants will be awarded to qualified applicants for relevant projects, based on merit, until funds are expended. Approximately \$30,000 is available under this year's program. The deadline for submitting applications to the division is 5:00pm AKDT, May 10, 2021. Projects must be completed by September 15, 2021, and project reports will be due October 30, 2021.

The application link is included here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/gradstudentminigrant>

Please attach a 1–2 page project narrative and budget detailing work plan, timeline, description of project and how it will benefit the industry, itemized expected costs and justification. In addition, a letter of support from your sponsor with appropriate letterhead and University credentials.

Eligibility:

- Must be currently enrolled in an accredited college or university;
- Open to graduate students only;
- All applicants must have a faculty sponsor/advisor and may also have industry professional sponsor/advisor for their grant;
- Applications must come from a single student;
- Project and work must take place in Alaska.

Awards will be granted in amounts up to \$10,000 TO THE APPLICANT. The deadline for application will be Friday, May 10, 2021. Projects must be completed by September 15, 2021 with project reports due October 30, 2021. Any publication resulting from the research project should state the source of financial support for the project. A presentation of the project results is required.

The Division of Agriculture may adjust your final budget to meet the specialty crop guidelines but will otherwise try to fund as much of the eligible proposed budget.