Application Instructions

It is strongly preferred that all application documents be uploaded directly to Michigan State University's application portal at http://msu-bheard.terradotta.com/?go=grain%5F2018.**The application portal contains step-by-step instructions for the entire process.**

If you cannot apply using the application portal you may fill out the documents in this packet and send them to grainapply@anr.msu.edu. If you have any questions about the process please email grainapply@anr.msu.edu.

The deadline is February 1, 2018.

CANDIDATE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:
- APPLICATION FORM
- APPLICANT INTENT QUESTIONNAIRE
- CURRICULUM VITAE OR RESUME (This includes education, work experience, publications, etc.)
- UNIVERSITY TRANSCRIPTS
- DEGREE CERTIFICATES
- PASSPORT IDENTIFICATION PAGE
  - If you don't have a passport, you may initially submit an alternate ID – a passport identification page will be required if you reach the finalist stage.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:
- THREE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
  - Please give the form titled *Instructions for Letter of Recommendation Writers* to each recommender. Applicants are not allowed to submit the recommendation letters. Letters must be sent <u>directly</u> from the recommender to grainapply@anr.msu.edu.

PLEASE NOTE:
1. Availability of scholarships is contingent upon sufficient funding from USAID;
2. USAID reserves the right to direct candidates in choosing their degree granting institution and intended areas of research, according to U.S. Government and Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan objectives;
3. Only short-listed candidates will be notified and contacted for interviews. If you do not hear from GRAIN, this means you weren't selected during this round of funding. There may be additional opportunities in subsequent years if funding is available;

4. Shortlisted candidates must take an English language test (paid for by GRAIN), which will be used in the selection process;
5. Only finalists will be contacted after the interview portion for further processing;
6. *Successful candidates will be required to undergo a medical examination. Please see the [USAID Guide for Medical Fitness Standards for Applicants](A-1382). (At this stage, this is for applicant information purposes only. Do not fill out this form unless directed to do so by GRAIN staff.)*
7. Selected applicants will be required to sign an agreement that outlines terms and conditions that must be agreed to when accepting this scholarship. These requirements will be explained to applicants who are selected after the interview process.

APPLICATION FORM FOR GRADUATE DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP: AFGHANISTAN

Instructions: It is strongly preferred that applicants use the application portal found at http://msu-bheard.terradotta.com/?go=grain%5F2018 **to submit their application. You should only fill this form out in hard copy if you are unable to access the application portal.**

Surname (family name) as it appears in your passport:	First name (as it appears in passport)	Second/Middle name (as it appears in passport)

Date of Birth	Sex (M/F)	Mailing address	

Mobile 1	Mobile 2 (if applicable)

Email 1	Email 2 (if applicable)

Current Position (job title)	Employer

What province is your employer located?	Do you work at the Provincial, National or District level? (Please list one)

Supervisor	Work location (region, district, village/town/city)

How long have you been with your current employer?

Undergraduate degree and discipline (Example: Bachelors of Science Degree in Agronomy)	University where undergraduate degree was obtained	Date of undergraduate degree award
Master's degree field (only answer if applicant already has MS)	University where Master's degree was obtained (only answer if applicant already has MS)	Date of Master's degree (only answer if applicant already has MS)

Desired field of study for graduate degree(subject _and_ MS or PhD)

Have you taken the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or IELTS? (yes/no)	If you have taken the TOEFL or IELTS, what was the examination date? Otherwise, leave blank.	If you have taken the TOEFL or IELTS, what score did you get? Otherwise, leave blank.

Disclaimer: By submitting this application, I authorize GRAIN to circulate all of my application materials to universities, USAID, and other officials, for the purposes of evaluating my application.

Signature:	Date:

APPLICANT INTENT QUESTIONNAIRE

INSTRUCTIONS: It is strongly preferred that applicants use the application portal found at http://msu-bheard.terradotta.com/?go=grain%5F2018 to submit their application. You should only fill this form out in hard copy if you are unable to access the application portal.

Please do not copy information straight from your CV or Resume. The applicant intent questionnaire serves as an opportunity for you to elaborate on your skills, experiences, and research interests. When filling this form out, be concise and use specific examples. The universities that ultimately accept you into their degree program will review this form during the admission process.

1. **Field of Study**
   (*Please mark an "X" to the left of your desired Subject Area. If you choose the "Other" category, please include an explanation.*)

	Agricultural Economics or Agribusiness		Irrigation or Water Management
	Agronomy or Crop Science		Plant Breeding and Genetics
	Biological Systems Engineering		Plant Pathology
	Biotechnology		Plant Physiology
	Crop Protection		Post-Harvest Management
	Data/Information Management		Soil Science
	Entomology or Integrated Pest Management		Statistics
	Environment/Climate Change		Other (Please explain how it is related to the wheat sector):
	Food Science		

2. **What specific aspect of the field of study marked above do you want to research further?**
   (*Please include details such as the specific problem, regional focus, etc*.)

3. **Why are you interested in further study and research in this area?**

4. **How is this an important issue for Afghanistan?**

5. **Why will your future research in this field be helpful in solving the problem?**

6. **What skills have you gained from <u>current or previous jobs</u> that will enable you to conduct this research?**
(*Consider your previous work experience that is applicable to your desired field of study. Also consider skills that you have acquired from your work experience that would make you a good graduate student for funding by the GRAIN program*.)

7. **What makes you <u>academically</u> qualified to attend a graduate program in this field of study?**
(*Consider your academic background, such as BSc or MSc courses that will provide a good foundation for this degree. Also consider academic research experiences*.)

8. **Have you received any scholarships or awards for your previous academic work? <u>Yes or No.</u>**
(*This can include items such as graduating in the top 2% of your class, with High Honors, etc. If "Yes", please describe*.)

9. **Have you earned any recognition or awards during your job experience**? <u>**Yes or No.**</u>
(*If "Yes", please describe.)*

10. **Have you participated in any volunteer work relevant to your field of study? <u>Yes or No</u>**
(*If "Yes", please describe.*)

11. **Have you attended any events relevant to your field of study? <u>Yes or No.</u>**
(*Events could be workshops, seminars, or other training. If so, please describe their relevance*)

12. **What do you hope to learn by getting this degree and conducting this research?**
(*Consider what subject, skills, and techniques you will learn during your degree program. Also consider non-cognitive skills, such as leadership, management, etc.)*

13. **What are your future goals upon obtaining a degree?**

14. **How will you apply what you've learned upon completion of your degree program to your job and country?** (*This question applies to your work and life after you have returned home. Be specific how this degree will help you in your job and how it will help Afghanistan.*)