DIGITAL AGRICULTURE FELLOWSHIP

UC RIVERSIDE | College of Natural & Agricultural Sciences

RISE.UCR.EDU/PROGRAMS/RESEARCH-OPPORTUNITIES/DIGITAL-AGRICULTURE-FELLOWSHIP

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Agriculture (AI4SA) is a multi-institutional and interdisciplinary research project based out of UC Riverside. Partner institutions include the University of Arizona, Duke University, University of Georgia, and Kansas State University. The project is funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

For thousands of years, the Colorado River and Salinas River have supplied surrounding regions with access to fresh water for growing crops. Climate change is threatening current and future access to these waters, with crop stressors (e.g., salinity, drought, pests) expected to require additional resources to protect crops and profits. It is the goal of the research and work being done throughout this project to provide actionable knowledge and tangible tools to improve sustainable management of these agricultural regions in the Western U.S.

DIGITAL AGRICULTURE FELLOWSHIP (DAF)

A key part of this project is the Digital Agriculture Fellowship. This 15 month fellowship provides an enriching experience combining research, professional development, and industry opportunities in digital agriculture. The fellowship begins with participation in the 2025 RISE Summer Program (June 23 to August 29, 2025) and continues throughout the academic year.

DAF Fellows will have the opportunity to:

- Participate in the RISE Summer Program (rise.ucr.edu), which includes intensive research experiences, professional development workshops, and team-building activities.
- Engage in ongoing research during Fall 2025, Winter 2026, and Spring 2026 by working 10-12 hours per week in their Faculty Mentor's Lab (see Faculty bios and project descriptions). Fellows will receive a quarterly stipend during this time.
- Explore career opportunities in digital agriculture through potential AgTech externships in Summer 2026.

OUTCOME

A major purpose of the Fellowship Program is to revitalize interest in pursuing agriculture as a career, by providing students with the experience and guidance necessary for entering the U.S. agricultural workforce. Throughout the Fellowship Program, students will be given networking opportunities, hands-on research experience, and mentorship from the scientists of the AI4SA project.

ELIGIBILITY

- Current undergraduate students from UCR or partnering institutions.
- Minimum GPA of 3.0, evaluated after Fall 2024 grades post.
- Research Areas include: Data Science, Environmental Science, Agricultural Sciences, and/or Engineering (focus on environmental, agricultural, and sustainability).
- UCR Majors may include: Computer Science, Data Science, Earth Science, Entomology, Environmental Science, Electrical Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Geophysics, Mathematics, Plant Biology, Statistics.
- Eligible applicants must be sophomores, juniors, or seniors in their undergraduate studies. Seniors can apply if they will remain enrolled at UCR through Fall 2025 and are committed to the full 15-month fellowship.
- Must be U.S. Citizens or Permanent Resident per USDA grant guidelines.

WATCH - ASK A CNAS PROF: ELIA SCUDIERO, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PRECISION AGRICULTURE & AGRONOMY

Elia Scudiero, Associate Professor of Precision Agriculture & Agronomy at the UC Riverside College of Natural & Agricultural Sciences (CNAS), discusses sensor testing, precision agriculture, and opportunities for UC Riverside students to engage in agricultural research.