

# 2024 NSF-IRES Morocco Application: Sustainable Women's Argan Oil Production

Due November 15h, 2023 at 11:59PM PST (Pacific Standard Time).

This is the application for the National Science Foundation funded International Research Experience for Students (IRES) US-Morocco Collaborative Research for Socially and Environmentally Sustainable Women's Argan Oil Production.

Note you must be: (1) US citizens or permanent residents as required by the funding agency, and (2) a current University of South Florida (USF) or University of California Merced (UC Merced) undergraduate or graduate student and continue to be enrolled through Fall 2024.

All application information will be kept internal to program staff and will not be shared outside of our selection committee without your permission.

Program website: <https://www.sustainableargan.org/apply>.

Please contact [cnaughton2@ucmerced.edu](mailto:cnaughton2@ucmerced.edu) or [deubel@usf.edu](mailto:deubel@usf.edu) if you have any questions.

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\* Indicates required question

1. Email \*

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2. 1. First Name \*

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3. 2. Last Name \*

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4. 3. E-mail (we know this is asked for twice, the first is to send an automated response for your records, the second is for our records). \*

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5. 4. Phone Number with area code. (XXX-XXX-XXXX) \*

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6. 5a. What are your pronouns? You are not required to disclose these and they will not impact your eligibility for the program. Do note for eventual room matching, we need to match with like gender identity as required by Moroccan law. \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- She/her/hers
- He/him
- They/them
- Prefer not to say
- Other

7. 5b. Note other pronoun if not listed.

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8. 6a. Choose what best matches your race/ ethnicity. This does not impact your eligibility in the program \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Black
- Hispanic/Latino
- Native American/Pacific Islander
- Asian
- White
- Prefer not to say

9. 6b. We understand choices for race/ethnicity above are limited and you may identify in more than one category or a category not specified. Please describe in your own words your racial and ethnic identity below if you feel comfortable providing more detail. This will not impact your eligibility.

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10. 7a. Do you have any accessibility accommodations we should be aware of in advance? (mobility, visual, hearing, diabetes, etc.) \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

- 11. 7b. Please describe any needed accessibility accommodations so we can best prepare and accommodate where we can. Note that research positions will involve walking across rough, uneven, and unpaved terrain. \*

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- 12. 7c. Do you have any planned operations or procedures that may impact your ability to participate in the summer 2024 field school? Please describe

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- 13. 8a. Do you have any dietary restrictions and/or food and other allergies? Note this will not impact your eligibility. \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

- 14. 8b. Please describe any dietary restrictions and/or food and other allergies. Note this will not impact your eligibility.

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15. 8c. Are there any foods you dislike or prefer not to eat? Please describe.

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16. 9. How old are you? This does not impact your eligibility in the program.

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17. 10. Are you a U.S. citizen or permanent resident? Due to funding agency requirements, we cannot accept non-U.S. citizens or non-permanent residents to the program. \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

18. 11. Do you have an active (non-expired) U.S. passport through January 2025? Note the U.S. state department recommends your passport is valid through 6 months after planned international travel. \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

19. 12. Will you be enrolled at UC Merced or University of South Florida (USF) in Summer or Fall 2024? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

20. 13. Select which one applies to you. \*

*Mark only one oval.*

UC Merced undergraduate student

UC Merced graduate student

USF undergraduate student

USF Graduate student

21. 14a. What is your major? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Anthropology

Environmental Systems

Civil/Environmental Engineering

Public Health

Other

22. 14b. If you indicated other for your major and/or you have a minor, please type your major and minor below:

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23. 15. What year are you currently in your program as of Fall 2023? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Year 1
- Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year 5
- Year 6
- Other

24. 16. What is your estimated graduation month and year?

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25. 17. What is your cumulative GPA?

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26. 18. If accepted into the program, I agree to travel in person to Morocco for the four-five week duration in June-August 2024 (preliminary dates: June 23rd-July 28th, 2024 or if delayed in July- August 2024)? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No

27. 19. If for COVID-19, security, or other reasons, USF, UC Merced, and/or Morocco <sup>\*</sup> restrict travel, do you agree to participate in the program virtually June-August 2024 or July- August 2024 if postponed? This may include early mornings U.S. time due to time differences.

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

28. 20. Do you agree to participate in a Spring 2024 directed research credit(s) (1-2) that will include pre-planning meetings, readings, assignments, and short trainings prior to travel in Summer 2024?

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No



29. 21. Do you agree to abide by all travel requirements including COVID-19 vaccination (including updated booster), face covering/mask, daily symptom testing, and testing requirements? (Note that international travel will require full and proof of vaccination against COVID-19 and other necessary vaccinations and will not allow religious or medical exemptions. We ask that you wear a face covering in the airplane and indoors at airports to protect yourself and Moroccans. You may also need to have proof of a negative COVID-19 test prior to travel and/or upon arrival in Morocco, and/or during the program by our partners. You may need to respond to a daily symptom check (fever, chills, etc.) before participating in field activities. This is above the CDC guidelines but are the guidelines of our Moroccan partner. This is for your safety and the safety of others in the program including our collaborators in Morocco). The program will not pay for vaccinations prior to travel (this can be arranged at the university health centers).

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

30. 22. Do you agree to complete pre and post evaluations for the project? An external evaluator is part of the project to assess the educational outcomes for the students.

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

31. 23. I understand that I will need to share a room with another student of like gender for the duration of the program. Morocco has policies against mixed-gender rooming in hotels for those that are not married.

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

32. 24. I understand that guests (e.g. spouses, significant others, children, pets, etc.) are not allowed to stay with me during the program. There is limited space and program resources to support guests.

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

End of section 1, click next. Two more sections.  
Note your application is not saved or submitted yet.

### International Experience Section

We do not require that you have prior international or language experience to participate in this program. In fact, we'd like to provide the experience to those that may not have had the opportunity before. We would still like to hear about your experiences and it will help to have a balanced cohort with those that have traveled and those that have not.

33. 1a. Have you traveled internationally before? Your answer will not impact your eligibility for this program. \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

34. 1b. Have you participated or will you participate in other international research experience (e.g., other NSF IRES program, Strong Coasts, etc.)?

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

Maybe

35. 2. If you have traveled internationally before or will travel internationally before the summer 2024 please describe when, where, and for how long?

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36. 3. Please select the languages you speak below. This does not impact your eligibility for the program. \*

*Check all that apply.*

- English
- French
- Modern Standard Arabic
- Moroccan Arabic
- Other Dialectical Arabic
- Spanish
- Berber (Tashelhit, Tamazigt or Tarifit - indigenous Amazigh languages of Morocco)

37. 4. Please describe your proficiency in the languages you selected (fluent, professionally proficient, advanced, intermediate, beginner, etc.)

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End of section 2, click next. One more section.  
Note your application is not saved or submitted yet.

### References and Essays

38. 1a. List the name of your first professional reference. We may contact them if you are short listed. \*

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39. 1b. List the e-mail of your first professional reference (name and e-mail). We may contact them if you are short listed. \*

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40. 2a. List the name of your second professional reference. We may contact them if you are short listed. \*

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41. 2b. List the e-mail of your second professional reference. We may contact them if you are short listed. \*

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42. 3. Include one paragraph of why you applied to this program? What are your expectations/goals for the program? Why do you want to go to Morocco? \*

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43. 4. Include a paragraph describing your future plans. What are your academic and short and long-term career goals, and your plans to achieve them? How will this IRES program help you achieve those goals? \*

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44. 5. Select the research area that interested you most about the program. Note all those selected in the program will get training in ethnographic methods. \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- A. Baseline ethnographic research
- B. Environmental Life Cycle Assessment (E-LCA) of argan oil production
- C. Social Life Cycle Assessment (S-LCA)
- D. Geospatial analysis of the argan forest
- E. Designing appropriate argan oil technologies

45. 6. Include a paragraph describing your research interests. What interests you the most and why? What prior experience/training/education can you contribute? \*

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46. 7. Any other items you'd like the application reviewers to know that we did not ask?

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47. 8. Any remaining questions you have? You can also contact [cnaughton2@ucmerced.edu](mailto:cnaughton2@ucmerced.edu) or [deubel@usf.edu](mailto:deubel@usf.edu).

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48. 9a. How did you hear about the program? Check all that apply. We want to see which of our advertising methods are working.

*Check all that apply.*

- Flier
- E-mail
- Friend
- Professor
- Information session
- News article
- Social Media
- Other

49. 9b. If you checked flier, please let us know where you saw them. Also describe other.

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End of application, don't forget to hit submit!

Thank you for applying! For those that make the short list we may contact your references and contact you for unofficial transcripts, a resume, and a zoom interview (end of November). We hope to inform all applicants if they were accepted or not by December 31st, 2023.

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