

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program



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www.nsf.gov/grfp - www.nsfgrfp.org



GRFP Goals

- To select, recognize, and financially support individuals who have demonstrated the potential to be high achieving scientists and engineers, early in their careers.
- To broaden participation in science and engineering of underrepresented groups, including women, minorities, persons with disabilities and veterans.





GRFP Key Elements

Five Year Award – \$138,000

- Three years of support
 - \$34,000 Stipend per year
 - \$12,000 Educational allowance to institution
- Professional Development Opportunities:
 - GROW: International Research
 - GRIP: Internships**
- Supercomputer access: XSEDE
- Career Life Balance (family leave)





GRFP Unique Features

- Awarded to individual
- **Flexible:** choice of project, advisor & program
- **Unrestrictive:** No service requirement
- **Portable:** Any accredited U.S. institution
 - MS, MS and PhD, PhD
- **2010 - 2015:** 2,000 Fellowships each year
 - 2015: 16,000 Applications - ~12.5% success rate



GRFP Solicitation (NSF 14-590)

- Contains the following information:
 - Program description
 - Award information
 - Eligibility requirements
 - Application preparation
 - Submission instructions
 - Application review criteria

Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

PROGRAM SOLICITATION

NSF 14-590

REPLACES DOCUMENT(S):

NSF 13-584



National Science Foundation
Directorate for Biological Sciences
Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering
Directorate for Education & Human Resources
Division of Graduate Education
Directorate for Engineering
Directorate for Geosciences
Directorate for Mathematical & Physical Sciences
Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences
Office of International and Integrative Activities

Application Deadline(s) (received by 8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time):

October 20, 2014

Engineering, Computer and Information Science and Engineering, Materials Research

October 30, 2014

Mathematical Sciences, Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy

November 03, 2014

Social Sciences, Psychology, STEM Education and Learning

November 04, 2014

Life Sciences, Geosciences

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REVISION NOTES

1. Eligibility criteria have changed with respect to post-baccalaureate study.
2. Application and reference writer deadlines have changed.
3. Fields of Study have been updated.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

General Information

Program Title:

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

Synopsis of Program:

The purpose of the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) is to help ensure the vitality and diversity of the scientific and engineering workforce of the United States. The program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees in science and engineering. The GRFP provides three years of support for the graduate education of individuals who have demonstrated their potential for significant achievements in science and engineering.

Cognizant Program Officer(s):

Please note that the following information is current at the time of publishing. See program website for any updates to the points of contact.

- Applications, contact: GRF Operations Center, telephone: (866) 673-4737, email: info@nslgrfp.org



GRFP Eligibility

- U.S. citizens and permanent residents
- Early-career: undergrad & grad students
- Pursuing research-based MS and PhD
- Science and Engineering
- Enrolled in accredited institution in US by Fall



Academic Levels

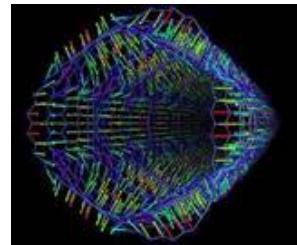
- **1:** Seniors/baccalaureates; no graduate study
- **2:** First-year graduate students
- **3:** Second-year grad students
 - ≤ 12 months of graduate study by August
- **4:** >12 months graduate study
 - Interruption in graduate study of 2+ years (can have MS degree)





GRFP Fields of Study

- Chemistry
- Computer & Information Science/Engineering
- Engineering
- Geosciences
- Life Sciences
- Materials Research
- Mathematical Sciences
- Physics and Astronomy
- Psychology
- Social Sciences
- STEM Education





GRFP Complete Application

Complete Application Package:

- 1) **Personal, Relevant Background and Future Goals Statement** (3 pages)
- 2) **Graduate Research Statement** (2 pages)
- 3) **Transcripts** (uploaded electronically)
- 4) **Three letters of reference**
(received by X Nov 2015, 8 pm EST)



DEADLINES: October/November 2015 (received by 8 pm EST)

Please see new Solicitation for application details and requirements



NSF Review Criteria

Two National Science Board-approved review criteria:

- Intellectual Merit (IM)

advancing knowledge within its own field or across different fields

- Broader Impacts (BI)

benefiting society or advancing desired societal outcomes



NSB is the governing board of the National Science Foundation & policy advisors to the president and congress



Preparing a GRFP Application

Personal Statement

Demonstrate potential for STEM research

- Experiences, personal and professional, that contributed to your motivation to pursue a STEM career and your preparation for it.
- Previous research/industrial/professional experiences

What was the project?

What was your part of the project?

Where was this research done?

Why was this project worth doing?

How did your part of the project fit into the whole?

What have you learned?

Advanced course work

- Career aspirations and goals

How have your experiences shaped your goals?





Preparing a GRFP Application

Research Statement

Describe your Research Plan

- **Demonstrate understanding** of research plan and methodology
- **Communicate** research idea and approach

Address NSF's review criteria





Advice for Applicants

- Start early
- Read Solicitation, and read it again
- Read NSF GRFP websites
- Select and confirm reference letter writers
- Pay attention to Merit Review criteria
- Identify several colleagues and have them comment on multiple statement drafts
- Share your application materials and the merit review criteria with reference writers
- Monitor receipt of reference letters (3 required for review)



GRFP Resources

- NSF GRFP Website (nsf.gov/grfp)
 - Solicitation and links
- NSF GRFP FastLane Website (fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp)
 - Application, guides, announcements
- GRFP Website (nsfgrfp.org)
- Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide (GROW) www.nsf.gov/grow
- Graduate Research Internship Program (GRIP) www.nsf.gov/grip
- Current & former Fellows
- Phone & e-mail
 - 866-NSF-GRFP (673-4737)
 - info@nsfgrfp.org

