

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 - 2016:** 2,000 Fellowships each year
 - 2016: ~16,800 Applications - ~12 % success rate




GRFP Solicitation (NSF 16-XXX)

- 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 15-597

REPLACES DOCUMENT(S): NSF 14-590

 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 Integrative Activities
Office of International Science and Engineering

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

October 26, 2015
Geosciences; Life Sciences

October 27, 2015
Computer and Information Science and Engineering; Engineering; Materials Research

October 29, 2015
Psychology; Social Sciences; STEM Education and Learning

October 30, 2015
Chemistry; Mathematical Sciences; Physics and Astronomy

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REVISION NOTES

1. Application and reference writer deadlines have changed.
2. The number of statements required from all applicants is limited to two.

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, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and in STEM education. The GRFP provides three years of support for the graduate education of individuals who have demonstrated their potential for significant research achievements in STEM and STEM education. NSF especially encourages women, members of underrepresented minority groups, persons with disabilities, and veterans to apply. NSF also encourages undergraduate seniors to apply.

New Solicitation will be published July/August 2016.



GRFP Eligibility

- U.S. citizens, nationals, 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

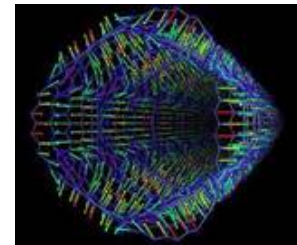
- **1:** Seniors/baccalaureates; no graduate study
- **2:** First-year graduate students*
- **3:** Second-year grad students*
 - ≤ 12 months of graduate study by August
- **4:** >12 months graduate study
 - Interruption in graduate study of 2+ years (can have MS degree)





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 2016)



DEADLINES: October 2016

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 (at least 3)



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

