The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program
• Identifies individuals with demonstrated potential for significant achievements in science and engineering research

• Enables recipients to engage more deeply in studies and research as graduate students

• Encourages the participation of women, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities
GRFP Key Elements

- Five Year Award – $121,500
- Three years of support
  - $30,000 Stipend per year
  - $10,500 Educational allowance to institution
- International research opportunities
- Supercomputer access

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program
Information: www.nsf.gov/grfp or www.nsfgrfp.org
Apply at: www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/
GRFP General Eligibility

- U.S. citizens and permanent residents
- Early-career students
- Pursuing research-based MS and PhD
- Enrolled in accredited U.S. institution
GRFP Supported Disciplines

• Chemistry
• Computer and Information Science and Engineering
• Engineering
• Geosciences
• Life Sciences
• Mathematical Sciences
• Physics and Astronomy
• Psychology
• Social Sciences
• Science Education*

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## GRFP Supported Disciplines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anthropology</th>
<th>Law and Social Science</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archaeology</td>
<td>Linguistics</td>
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<td>Cliometric History</td>
<td>Philosophy of Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
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<td>Decision Making</td>
<td>Public Policy</td>
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<td>Demography</td>
<td>Risk Analysis</td>
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<td>Econometrics</td>
<td>Science Policy</td>
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<td>Economics</td>
<td>Sociology (except Social Work)</td>
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<td>Geography</td>
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<td>History of Science</td>
<td>Urban and Regional Planning</td>
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<td>International Relations</td>
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# GRFP Supported Disciplines

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<tr>
<th>PSYCHOLOGY</th>
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<td>Clinical (research-based)</td>
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<td>Cognitive</td>
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<td>Cognitive Neuroscience</td>
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<td>Computational Psychology</td>
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<td>Developmental</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experimental or Comparative</td>
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<td>Industrial/Organizational</td>
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National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program
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If your planned graduate research has implications for the medical sciences, you may be eligible for the GRFP *if you are proposing to do basic research.*

If you are planning to carry out *medical or clinical research*, you might want to consider applying for pre-doctoral award support from the NIH.
Not Supported by NSF GRFP

- Clinical work
- Counseling
- Business administration & management
- Social work
- Practice-oriented professional degree programs
- Medical, dental, law, or public health programs
- Joint science-professional degree programs, e.g., MD/PhD, JD/PhD, etc.
**GRFP Cycle**

- **Application**: Available online mid-August
- **Deadlines**: Mid-November – Varies (Not yet published for this year)
- **Awards**: Announced in early April
- **Best Time to Start Preparing**: Now
Complete Application

Online through NSF FastLane

- Personal statement (2 pages)
- Previous research experience (2 pages)
- Proposed plan of research (2 pages)
- Transcripts
- Three letters of reference
Key Features of NSF Application

- GRE scores NOT accepted!
- Recommendation letter deadline will follow student deadlines
- Only 3 recommendation letters will be read, though more may be requested
- Applicants should rank recommenders in order of priority (1 through 5)
- Enrollment at US Graduate Institutions Required
Two National Science Board-approved criteria

- Intellectual Merit
- Broader Impacts
Demonstrated intellectual ability and other accepted requisites for scholarly scientific study, such as the ability to:

- Plan and conduct research
- Work as a member of a team as well as independently
- Interpret and communicate research
Intellectual Merit Assessment

- Academic performance
- Awards/honors
- Communication skills
- International experience
- Independence/creativity
- Publication/presentations
- Research plan
- Choice of institution
- References
- Research experience
Contributions that:

- Integrate research and education at all levels, infuse learning with discovery, and assure that the findings are communicated in a broad context and to a large audience.
- Encourage diversity, broaden opportunities, and enable the participation of all citizens, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities – in science and research.
- Enhance scientific and technical understanding.
- Benefit society.
Broader Impacts Assessment

- Prior accomplishments
- Future plans
- Individual experiences
- Integration of research and education
- Potential to reach diverse audiences
- Impact on society and connectivity
- Community outreach
- Leadership potential
Preparing a competitive application

Personal Statement (2 Pages)

• Fascination with research area; address Intellectual Merit criterion

• Examples of leadership and unique characteristics brought to chosen field

• Personal experiences and individual strengths; address Broader Impacts criterion

• How the fellowship would contribute to career goals
Preparing a competitive application

Previous Research Experience Essay (2 Pages)

- Applicable experiences, relevant to research
- Key questions, methodology, findings, and conclusions
- Team and/or independent work
- Mention all publications, posters, presentations, awards, recognition, etc.
Proposed Research Plan (2 Pages)

- Original inquiry – introduce general theory, importance, and motivation
- How you have prepared
- Perceived scope of work during graduate study and beyond
- Detailed plan, but avoiding being overly specific
- Demonstrate research’s Broader Impacts
Preparing a competitive application

Reference Letters

• Choose three appropriate reference writers
• Give them ample time to prepare their letters
• They should know you as a scientist and personally
• Share your application materials and the merit review criteria (good letters address Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts)
• Track letter submission using FastLane
Preparing a competitive application

1. Start the process NOW!
2. Read the guidelines carefully
3. Address the two review criteria in application materials
4. Ensure essays address all application questions
5. Check for spelling and grammatical errors
6. Verify essays upload correctly AND are in appropriate place
7. Press “Submit” button
8. Regularly check application status
Preparing a competitive application

**Reflection** on experiences and proposed research on the real world

***Discussion with experts, mentors, and peers***

***Construction; give to experts, mentors, and peers to review***

Polish to **create final draft**
Evaluation of applications

- Panelists are academic and research experts in general discipline, not necessarily in your research topic
- Panelists complete rating sheet
- NSF requests panelists to provide constructive comments (applicants may view) / (Samples at ELMS/Blackboard)
- Application evaluated by 2-3 panelists
- Panels make recommendations to NSF
- NSF awards fellowships and honorable mentions
At www.nsfgrfp.org:

- Tips for applying
- Frequently asked questions
- Find GRFP resource people
- Other funding opportunities

Local: NSO ELMS/Blackboard Site

*Your Professors and Mentors*
Besides feedback on your ideas from experts, the application is great preparation for:

- Graduate school applications
- Other award applications
- Job applications
- Writing publications
- Professional connections

...and you just might win the fellowship too!

**2008**
- 1,000 Awards
- 10,000 Applications
- ~ 10% Success

**2010**
- 2,000 Awards
- 12,000 Applications
- ~ 17% Success