

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

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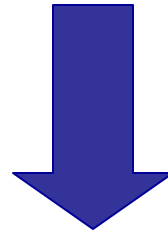
What Is the National Science Foundation?



- Funds national science & engineering leadership
- Supports learning & discovery
- Is a career-long presence in researchers' work

Why the GRFP?

Goal: “to promote the vitality and diversity of the human resource base in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.”



Support **future leaders** in these fields

GRF Benefits



- Three years of support
- \$30,000 annual stipend
- \$10,500 cost-of-education allowance
- Used at the graduate school of your choice

Are you Eligible?



- Senior year or early graduate study
- Citizenship
- Research Field

2006-2007 Application Cycle

FIELDS	Applications		Awardees		Honorable Mentions	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Total	8339		910		1419	
Chemistry	530	6.4%	52	5.7%	97	6.8%
Computer & Information Science & Engineering	447	5.4%	53	5.8%	74	5.2%
Engineering	2183	26.2%	296	32.5%	313	22.1%
Geosciences	276	3.3%	28	3.1%	49	3.5%
Life Sciences	2503	30.0%	247	27.1%	455	32.1%
Mathematical Sciences	266	3.2%	28	3.1%	51	3.6%
Physics and Astronomy	458	5.5%	46	5.1%	86	6.1%
Psychology	624	7.5%	59	6.5%	110	7.8%
Social Sciences	1052	12.6%	101	11.1%	184	13.0%

Application Material

- Your **“original”** material includes:

- Proposed Plan of Research
- Previous Research Experience Essay
- Personal Statement

(Personal, Professional and Education Experiences that have prepared you or contributed to your interest in pursuing graduate degree)

- Supporting application materials include:

- References, Transcripts, GRE's

How to Succeed: *Understand NSF Review Criteria*

- NSF employs two broad review criteria

Intellectual Merit

Broader Impacts

- Your application is evaluated using these criteria

Intellectual Merit

Ability to:



- Plan and conduct research
- Work independently *and* in a team
- Interpret and communicate research findings

Broader Impacts

■ Activities and Projects that:



- Integrate research and education
- Communicate your methodology and findings to a diverse audience
- Encourage diversity and enable full participation
- Enhance scientific and technical understanding
- Benefit your community

Demonstrating Merit Review Criteria

■ Intellectual Merit Criterion

- Your academic record
- Proposed plan of research
- Previous research experience
- Choice of and relevance of references
- GRE's scores
- Appropriateness of proposed graduate institution

■ Broader Impacts Criterion

- Characteristics of your background, including:
 - Personal, professional and educational experiences

Formulating Research Plan

- Reflect upon what captures your attention



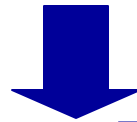
- Analyze and develop an *original* research question



- Use your understanding of research principles and approaches to address this question

Create a "Proposal Review Process"

Discuss plan with mentors and peers
..... Revise your Plan



**Finalize Your Proposed Plan
of Research**

Other Important Points To Remember

■ Primary Field

- Field **YOU** select determines which panel reviews your application

■ For Inter-Disciplinary Applications

- Select the field/research area that reflects your primary research area
- Indicate your secondary fields/research areas

■ Also remember to:

- Check your spelling and grammar
- Press the "Submit" button
- Regularly check the status of your transcripts, reference letters – if needed, follow up w/school and referees

Evaluation Process

- Applications are evaluated by field specific panels
 - Panelists are academic and research experts in the panel field
 - Panelists are experts in the broad field, but may not be experts in your specific research specialty
- Each application is evaluated by the panelists using NSF Merit Review Criteria
- Panels make recommendations to NSF regarding *awardees* and *honorable mentions*

Program Cycle

Program Announcement: www.nsf.gov/grfp

Application: Online application available
late August at www.fastlane.nsf.gov

Deadlines: November, 2007
(varies by field)

Awards: NSF announces awards March 2008

Rewards

“The GRF has provided me with a tremendous amount of **independence** not only in terms of the college or university I attend, but the advisor I work with, and my dissertation topic, as I don’t have to rely on anyone else’s funding but my own. ”

“**Prestige** .. is a key advantage of the GRF, particularly with respect to future job prospects.”

Additional Information

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

Program Announcement, Online Application and Deadlines

- Website: www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp
- Deadlines: November, 2007

Question about Application Process

- Telephone: 866-NSF-GRFP (673-4737)
- Email: help@nsfgradfellows.org



OPPORTUNITIES for GRADUATE RESEARCH SUPPORT

SPONSOR	NAME	WEBSITE
National Science Foundation	Graduate Research Fellowship Program	www.nsf.gov/grfp
National Science Foundation	LSAMP Bridge to the Doctorate	http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5477
National Science Foundation	Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program	www.igert.org
Department of Defense	National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship (NDSEG)	www.asee.org/ndseg
Department of Defense	Science, Mathematics, and Research For Transformation Program (SMART)	www.asee.org/smart