NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

Nicole Le Maistre

GRF Operations Center
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
NSF Supported Fields

- Chemistry
- Computer and Information Science and Engineering
- Engineering
- Geosciences
- Life Sciences
- Mathematical Sciences
- Physics and Astronomy
- Psychology
- Social Sciences
### 2006-2007 Application Cycle

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

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