NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

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July 13, 2016

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

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)

*Dear Colleague Letter (NSF 16-50), FAQ (NSF 16-051)
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

For more GRFP Fields of Study details read the GRFP Solicitation (NSF 14-590)
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
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