The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program - Enabling Young Investigators

Program Director
Dr. Carmen Sidbury, (csidbury@nsf.gov)
Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF)

Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education (GK-12)

Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program (IGERT)

NSF Division of Graduate Education

GK-12 Creating Novel Opportunities for Graduate and Pre-College Education

Graduate Education and Career Advancement

IGERT Promoting Innovation through Interdisciplinary Collaborations

GRF Enriching Experiences for Individuals

- Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF)
- Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education (GK-12)
- Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program (IGERT)
Initiated in 1952 – oldest NSF program

>43,000 students including FY2008 awards

Currently ca. 3300 fellows, ca. 2700 on “tenure” (taking stipend and cost of education)

Very successful students - high rates of PhD completion, shorter time to degree completion, high placement in faculty positions, high levels of research productivity, >20 Nobel laureates, etc.
The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

Three years of support over a five year period
Annual stipend of $30,000 - cost of living
Annual tuition support of $10,500 - cost of education allowance paid to institution
$1,000 one-time international travel allowance
Cyberinfrastructure access via the TeraGrid
The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

Portable to graduate institutions in US or abroad

Flexible - your choice of project, advisor, department

No service requirement (national lab or military)

Typically awarded to ca. 1,000 students per year

Honorable Mention for meritorious applications

(includes Cyberinfrastructure resources)

Specific programs to support underrepresented populations
GRF Eligibility Criteria

Academic level

Level 1 - Seniors, baccalaureates with no graduate study
Level 2 - First-year graduate students
Level 3 - Second-year grad students (12 months of graduate study or less by Aug 31 prior to submission)
Level 4 - >12 months graduate study - change in field

Citizenship

U.S. Citizen, National or Permanent Resident

Discipline

Research-based Masters or PhD in NSF-Supported Field
NSF-Supported Disciplines

Chemistry
Computer and Information Science and Engineering
Engineering
Geosciences
Life Sciences
Mathematical Sciences
Physics and Astronomy
Psychology (non-clinical)
Social Sciences (non-clinical)
Some Areas Not Supported by the GRF

Clinical work
Counseling
Business
Management
Social work
Practice-oriented professional degree programs
Joint science-professional degree programs (MD/PhD and JD/PhD)
Medical, dental, law, or public health programs
Personal Statement Essay (2 pages)

Previous Research Experience Essay (2 pages)

Proposed Plan of Research Essay (2 pages)

Completed Graduate Study Essay (For Level 4)

Three Letters of Reference

Transcripts

GRE Scores (Optional but Highly Recommended)
“Demonstrated intellectual ability and other accepted requisites for scholarly scientific study, such as the ability to:

(1) plan and conduct research;

(2) work as a member of a team as well as independently; and

(3) interpret and communicate research.”
Assessed by:

- Academic performance & background (grades, curricula, GRE)
- Awards/honors
- Communication skills
- Research experience
- International experience
- Independence/creativity
- Publication/presentations
- Research plan
- Choice of institution
- References

Center for Environmental Analysis (CEA-CREST), California State University Los Angeles student
Kwasi Connor
Search for an REU Site

Astronomical Sciences
Atmospheric Sciences
Biological Sciences
Chemistry
Computer and Information Science and Engineering
Cyberinfrastructure
Department of Defense (DoD)
Earth Sciences
Education and Human Resources
Engineering
Ethics and Values Studies
International Science and Engineering
Materials Research
Mathematical Sciences
Ocean Sciences
Physics
Polar Programs
Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences

SEARCH BY RESEARCH AREAS/KEYWORDS:

Enter full or partial research areas/keywords separated by commas:
(e.g. geophysics, ecology, nano, robot, ethics)

AND/OR STATE:
All:

Search  Reset
“Contributions that:
(1) 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;
(2) encourage diversity, broaden opportunities, and enable the participation of all citizens, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities -- in science and research;
(3) enhance scientific and technical understanding; and
(4) benefit society.”
Assessed by:

- Prior accomplishments
- Community outreach
- Impact on society and connectivity
- Future plans
- Leadership potential
- Individual experiences
- Integration of research and education
- Potential to reach diverse audiences
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

As an educator, you play a critical role in the promotion of the GRFP. By reviewing applications as a panelist, giving presentations at your institution, and mentoring those students wishing to apply, the support you provide is invaluable to the applicants’ success. Included in this section are all of the resources needed to get involved with the GRFP. You can download promotional materials or register as a potential panelist or register as a guide to help students at your institution.

Want to See A Fellow’s Research Featured on This Site?

If you are in contact with a current or past fellow, please have them send an email to outreach@nsfgrfp.org that includes the following:

- Their name
- Year awarded fellowship
- Institution attending/attended
- Image depicting their research (may or may not have people)
- Caption describing image, including what the viewer is looking at and the benefits of the research. Please use language that is easily understandable to someone outside the research field.

Included in this section:

Fellow Joshua Atwood from the University of Rhode Island assists the O‘ahu Early Detection Project in seeking and removing Miconia calvescens on a hillside in Honolulu, HI. M. calvescens is an invasive plant that competes with native vegetation and promotes erosion by forming shallow-rooted monocultures.
TIPS for Applying:

- http://www.nsfgrfp.org/applicant_resources/tips_for_applying

List of important questions to ask yourself before starting each section:

- http://www.nsfgrfp.org/how_to_apply/application_materials
The review process

- Panelists will read many, many applications, with quite a few outside of their immediate discipline
  - Your application should be clear, concise, well-written, and understandable
  - Address review criteria explicitly, especially for Broader Impacts
- Who are the panelists? – recruit your professors to sign up!
Contact Information

GRFP Website:  http://www.nsfgrfp.org/

NSF GRF description, solicitation (August), and links:

http://www.nsf.gov/grfp/

Online Application, User Guides, and Official Announcements:

http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/

866-NSF-GRFP (673-4737) help@nsfgradfellows.org
Top baccalaureate institutions of black U.S. citizen S&E doctorate recipients: 2002–06

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Source: NSF/SRS, Survey of Earned Doctorates.