



**Graduate Research Fellowship Program
(GRFP)
NSFGRFP.org**

**EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTORATE (EHR)
DIVISION OF GRADUATE EDUCATION (DGE)**



Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

Education and Human Resources (EHR)
Division of Graduate Education (DGE)

www.nsf.gov/grfp

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www.nsfgrfp.org



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About GRFP

General Information

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ABOUT NSF GRFP

SINCE 1952

70,000+
GRFPS AWARDED

40+ FELLOWS
HAVE GONE ON TO BECOME
NOBEL LAUREATES

FELLOW FROM/IN EVERY STATE

450+ FELLOWS
HAVE BECOME MEMBERS OF THE
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

\$37,000
ANNUAL STIPEND

\$12,000
COST OF EDUCATION ALLOWANCE

5-YEAR
FELLOWSHIP
PERIOD
3 YEARS
FINANCIAL
SUPPORT

NO POST-GRADUATE
STUDY SERVICE
REQUIREMENT

~Per Competition
12,000+ APPLICANTS
2,000+ OFFERS

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED
500+
~Per Competition

Submit Early

OPEN TO:

Individuals Pursuing
RESEARCH-BASED
MASTER'S &
DOCTORAL
DEGREES In Eligible
Fields of Study

[nsfgrfp.org](https://www.nsfgrfp.org)

**DECISION
TREE**
**FORMAT
COMPLIANCE
CHECK**

ELIGIBLE MAJOR FIELDS OF STUDY



CHEMISTRY



COMPUTER AND
INFORMATION
SCIENCES &
ENGINEERING



ENGINEERING



GEOSCIENCES



LIFE
SCIENCES



MATERIALS
RESEARCH



MATHEMATICAL
SCIENCES



PHYSICS &
ASTRONOMY



PSYCHOLOGY



SOCIAL
SCIENCES



STEM EDUCATION & LEARNING RESEARCH

MAJOR FIELDS HAVE SUB-FIELDS



National Science Foundation

Graduate Research Fellowship Program
(GRFP)

DESCRIPTION



NSF Graduate Research Fellowships

Five Year Awards – \$147,000

Three years of financial support

- \$37,000 stipend each year to the graduate institution
- \$12,000 educational allowance directly to graduate institution
- In lieu of tuition and fees

Other NSF Opportunities

- INTERN – non-academic internship program
- FASED Individuals with Disabilities support
- Career-Life Balance Initiative (family leave)



GRFP Benefits

- Fellowship: Awarded to individual, paid through the attended graduate institution
 - Flexible: Choice of project, advisor, and graduate program
 - Unrestricted: No service requirement after completion
 - Portable: Can be used at any accredited, non-profit, US institution of higher education, with campus in US research-based master's and doctoral degrees
-
- **2010 - 2021: ~2,000 Fellowships yearly**
 - 2016: ~16,800 Applications - ~12% success rate
 - 2017: ~13,200 Applications - ~15% success rate
 - 2018: ~12,400 Applications - ~16% success rate
 - 2019: ~12,200 Applications - ~16% success rate
 - 2020: ~12,800 Applications - ~16% success rate
 - **2021: ~12,600 Applications - ~17% success rate**



GRFP Goals

The overall goal of the Graduate Research Fellowship Program is to recruit individuals into Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields

- 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



National Science Foundation

Graduate Research Fellowship
Program
(GRFP)

ELIGIBILITY



GRFP Eligibility - NSF Solicitation 22-614

- U.S. citizens, nationals, and permanent residents
- Early-career: undergrad & graduate students
- Pursuing research-based master's and/or doctoral degrees (no professional degrees)
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) or STEM Education
- Full-time enrollment in graduate degree program at accredited, non-profit US institution of higher education
- NO foreign institutions

Level 1: Seniors/bachelor's degree: no graduate study

Level 2: 1st-year graduate students

- Joint bachelor's-master's (completed 3 years)

Level 3: Second-year graduate students

- No more than 1 academic year completed in 1st graduate degree program
- For joint BS/MS holders ONLY, can apply as 1st year doctoral students if went directly into PhD program, after completing joint bachelor's-master's degree)

Level 4: Returning graduate students

- > 2-year interruption in graduate study
- No doctorates or >1 academic year in graduate program
- NOT ENROLLED in graduate program at application deadline

Only apply
once in
grad school



Ineligible Degree Programs

- Professional degree programs
 - E.g., MBA, MD, JD, DVM, DDS
- Joint science-professional degree programs
 - E.g., MD/PhD, JD/PhD
- Community, Global, or Public Health (MPH)
- Counseling, Social Work (MSW)
- Education (except STEM education)
- History (except history of science)



See Detailed Eligibility Requirements in the GRFP Solicitation



Ineligible Fields of Study

Research with directly health-related goals

- Etiology, diagnosis, or treatment of disease or disorder
- Animal models of disease for drug development/testing
- Epidemiology
- Disease prevention
- Public, community, global health
- Clinical research
- Patient-oriented research
- Epidemiological and behavioral studies

Outcomes research

- Health services, standard of care, health policy
- Research directly leading to clinical trials

Applied research on plant pathology

- Maximizing agricultural production

Impacts on food safety



**National
Science
Foundation**

**Graduate Research
Fellowship Program (GRFP)**

Application Package





GRFP

Complete Application

Complete Application Package:

- 1) Personal Information, Education, Work/Research Experience, Proposed Major Field of Study, Honors, Awards, Publications
- 2) Personal, Relevant Background and Future Goals Statement (3-page PDF)
- 3) Graduate Research Statement (2-page PDF)
- 4) Transcripts (**PDFs; mandatory**)
- 5) Letters of reference (may provide up to five names of reference letter writers)
 - 3 reference letter writer names are mandatory and 2 reference letters are mandatory for your application to be reviewed



GRFP Complete Application

DEADLINES (5 p.m. local applicant mailing address):

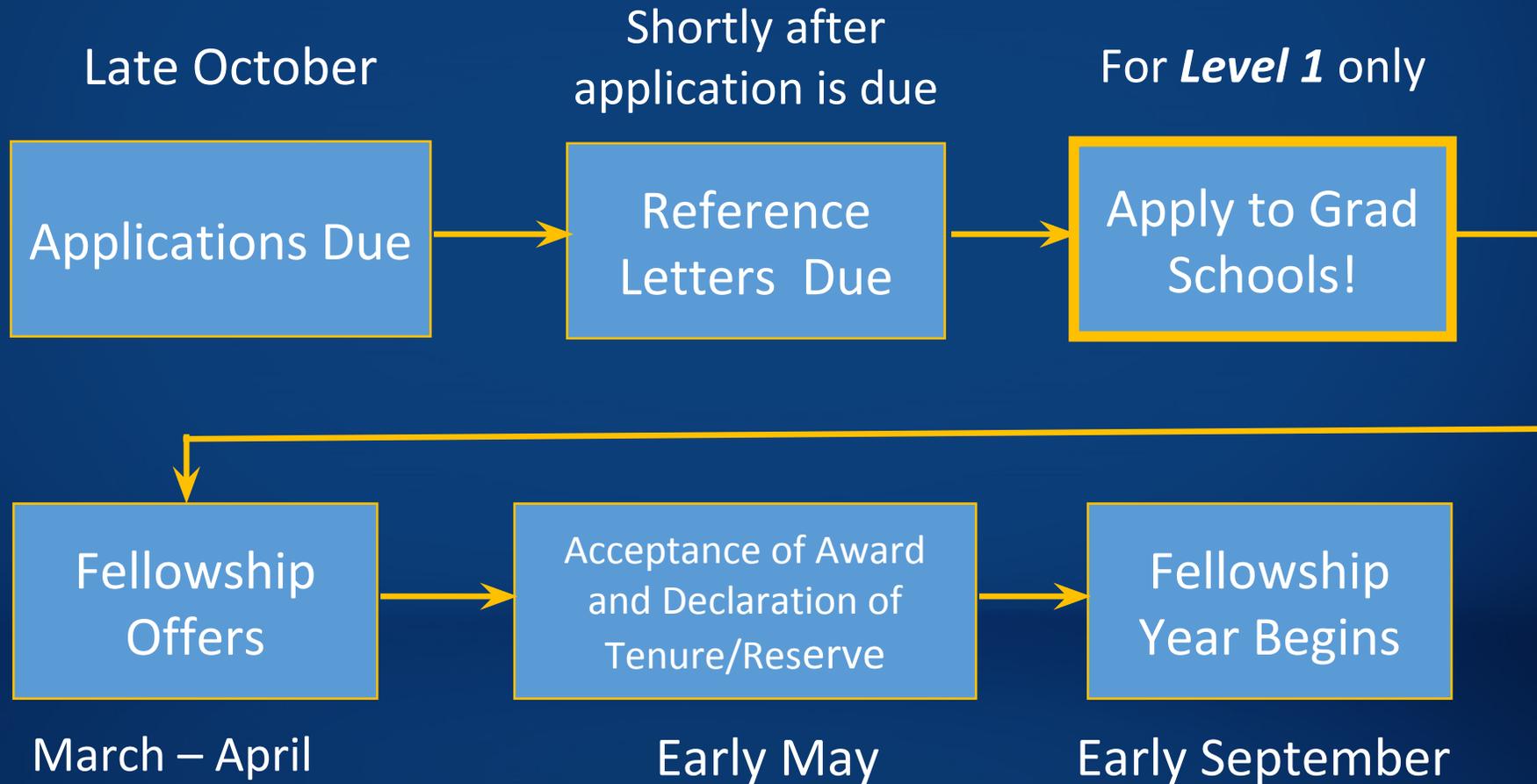
- Oct. 17, 2022: Life Sciences
- Oct. 18, 2022: CISE, Materials Research, Psychology, Social Sciences, STEM Education and Learning
- Oct. 20, 2022: Engineering
- Oct. 21, 2022: Chemistry, Geosciences, Math, Physics & Astronomy

Read the GRFP Solicitation for detailed application instructions and requirements

If accessibility accommodations are required, please contact info@nsfgrfp.org at least four weeks before the application deadline



Example GRFP Application Timeline



**National
Science
Foundation**

**Graduate Research
Fellowship Program (GRFP)**

**Personal and Research
Statements**



Two Statements

*Personal, Relevant
Background & Goals
(3-page PDF)*

Research Statement



Personal, Relevant Background & Goals

Tell your story; demonstrate your potential for STEM research
Experiences (professional and personal) that contributed to
your motivation and preparation for pursuing a STEM career

Career aspirations and future goals

How have your experiences shaped your goals?

Research, industrial, professional experience

- What was the project, what was your role?
- How did you become involved? Where was it done?
- Why was this project worth doing? What have you learned? Any advanced course work?
- What was your contribution to the project and how did it fit into the whole?

Two Statements

Personal, Relevant
Background & Goals

[Research Statement](#)
[\(2-page PDF\)](#)



Research Statement

Describe your proposed research plan:

- Communicate your research idea and approach
- Explain your research plan and methods
- What do you expect to learn? How will you know if the project is successful?
- What would you do next?

Keep in mind:

Avoid jargon

- Communicate clearly for non-specialists
- Make your contributions clear

**Clearly address NSF's Merit Review Criteria –
Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts – under
separate headings**

Reference Letters and Transcripts



Reference Letters

- 5 names of potential references are *optional*
- 3 names *must be listed* as part of the application
- NSF must receive at least 2 letters to accept your application for review
- Three (3) reference letters are STRONGLY RECOMMENDED
- *Two (2) reference letters are MANDATORY*
- List and rank up to 5 reference letter writers
 - Top 3 will be seen by reviewers

Transcripts

- All applicants must submit bachelor's degree transcript
- Transcripts are **required** for all degree-programs
- Graduate transcripts for all graduate degree enrollment
- Official or unofficial transcripts accepted

National Science Foundation

Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

Review Criteria



Comprehensive Review

National Science Board-approved merit review criteria

Intellectual Merit

- How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge within its own field or across different fields?

Broader Impacts

- How well does the proposed activity benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes?





Comprehensive Review

Applicants are reviewed based on:

- Their demonstrated potential for significant achievement in STEM
- Using a comprehensive, holistic approach
- A balanced consideration to all components of the application
 - Including the educational and research record, leadership, outreach, service activities, plans for the future, individual competencies, experiences, and other attributes



Intellectual Merit

Potential to advance knowledge

Evidence of potential, such as ability to:

- Demonstrated intellectual ability (grades, curricula, awards, publications, presentations, etc.)
- Plan and conduct research
- Work as a member of a team as well as independently
- Interpret and communicate research
- Take initiative, solve problems, persist
- The potential of your approach to your major field of study and your Research Plan to advance knowledge

Evidence of Intellectual Merit can be found in all parts of the application: Personal Statement, Research Plan, letters, experiences, awards, achievements, and transcripts



Broader Impacts

Potential impact of the individual and/or the research on society; why it's important

Societal benefits may include, but are not limited to:

- Increasing participation of underrepresented groups, women, persons with disabilities, veterans
- Outreach: Mentoring; improving STEM education in schools
- Increasing public scientific literacy; increased public engagement with STEM
- Community outreach: science clubs, radio, TV, newspapers, blogs
- Increasing collaboration between academia, industry, others

Evidence of Broader Impacts can be in all parts of the application:
Personal Statement, Research Plan, letters, experiences, awards,
achievements





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