Division of Graduate Education (DGE)

Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

NSFGRFP.org
Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

Directorate for STEM Education (EDU)
Division of Graduate Education (DGE)

www.nsf.gov/grfp
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ABOUT NSF GRFP

- Since 1952, 70,000+ GRFPs awarded
- 40+ fellows have become Nobel Laureates
- Fellows from/in every state
- 450+ fellows have become members of the National Academy of Sciences
- Annual stipend: $37,000
- Cost of education allowance: $16,000
- 5-year fellowship period
- 3 years of financial support
- No post-graduate study service requirement
- 12,000+ applicants, 2,000+ offers
- 500+ academic institutions represented
- Submit Early

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

Each major field of study has subfields
Why Serve as a Reviewer?

- Support the early-careers of outstanding STEM and STEM education students
- Help identify our nation’s future science and engineering leaders
- Be of service to the STEM community
- Obtain a professional development opportunity
- Gain firsthand knowledge of the NSF GRFP review process
- Receive valuable perspectives on the NSF Merit Review criteria
- Improve ability to mentor students in application development
Who Can Serve for the NSF GRFP?

- Individuals in academe, government, industry, and non-profits with an advanced degree or equivalent work experience
- Faculty who conduct research and/or serve as research advisors
- **Cannot** be graduate students or post-docs
- **May not** be affiliated with a foreign institution
• Able to evaluate early-career applications on their demonstrated potential for significant achievements in science, technology, mathematics, or engineering (STEM)
  • Willing to review applications in their field of expertise and related fields supported by NSF
• Able to impartially describe the merits of applications submitted by both undergraduate and graduate students
Virtual Review Process

- **June-September:** Registration
- **October:** Invitations Sent
- **November:** Live Virtual Reviewer Orientation
- **December:** Virtual Application Reviews
- **Early January:** Live Virtual Panels
What Does Reviewing Entail?

Activities:
• Participate in virtual orientation
• Formally register as NSF reviewer
• Access reviewer training materials
• Expect to receive 20 applications or more, if needed
• Participate in virtual panels
• Receive payment (if eligible) and service acknowledgement

Comprehensive and Holistic Review of Applications:
• Personal information, educational and work/research experience, academic honors
• Research statement (2 pages)
• Personal statement (3 pages)
• Transcripts
• Two to three letters of reference
Incorporate Evidence

- Address review and summary comments to applicant.
- Apply merit review criteria information in application.
- Review comments should be supported by evidence in the application.
- Avoid implicit bias statements.
- Do not refer to specific components of application (e.g., GPA, reference letters) or identify letter writers.
- Do not summarize the application; provide strengths and weaknesses of the application.
- Be consistent in evaluations of applications.
Be Reflective and Constructive

• Remember the primary purpose of the review is to provide comments to the applicant
• Ask yourself, if you received this type of review, would it be helpful to your continued professional growth and development as a researcher?
• Carefully read each evaluation after you have written it; ask yourself how others might respond to your comments if they were made public
• Be accountable to yourself and be ready to justify your evaluation to others
• All reviews are advisory to NSF and are federal record
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?
Applicants are reviewed based on:

- Examining demonstrated potential for significant achievement in STEM
- Using a comprehensive, holistic approach
- Giving 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
Evidence of intellectual merit can be found in all parts of the application.

**Evidence of potential, such as ability to:**
- Plan and conduct research
- Work as a member of a team as well as independently
- Interpret and communicate research (e.g. publications, presentations)
- Take initiative, solve problems, persist

**Additional considerations:**
- The potential of the applicant’s approach to their major field of study and their Research Plan to advance knowledge
- Demonstrated intellectual ability (grades, curricula, award, etc.)
Societal benefits may include but are not limited to:

- Increasing participation of the full spectrum of diverse talents in STEM
- 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
Thank you!

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Program Contacts
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GRFP Reviewers: nsfgrfp.org/reviewers/

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