National Science Foundation
Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP)

What is the NSF GRFP?
• Predoctoral Fellowship
  • Supports three years of graduate school
  • Stipend $34000/year (Average $25K)
• Tuition and Fees Remission $12000/year
  • Distinction

^Over a 5 year period

Why Apply for the NSF GRFP?
• Distinction
• Enhanced Appeal
• Increased Income
• Increased Project Freedom
• Experience in Proposal Writing
• International Research Opportunities
• Professional Development
• Foot in the NSF Door

Eligibility:
• US citizen, US national, or permanent resident
• Intend to pursue a research-based Master’s or Ph.D. program
• Planning to be enrolled in US graduate institution by fall 2016

When to Apply:
• Senior year of undergraduate degree
• First year of graduate school

Deadlines to be Mindful of:
Early August 2015:
Program Announcement, Application Portal Open (FastLane)
2015 Discipline-Specific Deadlines Posted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geosciences, Life Sciences</td>
<td>October 26, 2015 (Monday) *</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Information Science, Engineering, Materials Research</td>
<td>October 27, 2015 (Tuesday)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology, Social Sciences, STEM Education and Learning</td>
<td>October 29, 2015 (Thursday) *</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemistry, Mathematical Sciences, Physics and Astronomy</td>
<td>October 30, 2015 (Friday) *</td>
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<td>Three Reference Letters°</td>
<td>November 5, 2015 (Thursday)*</td>
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*All Applications due at 8 pm EST/5 pm PST
° Reference letter writers will be emailed a new Fastlane login

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NSF GRFP Announcements: March/April 2015

- Fellow Awardees
- Honorable Mentions

To Do Now (Early Fall):

1. Register for a Fastlane account (to access application; see Online Resources for the link to Fastlane)


3. Identify three letter writers—make sure you ask if they can write you a strong letter. If they cannot, identify who can.

4. Give letter writers your materials:
   a. To help them craft your letter
   b. For feedback

5. Order Transcripts

6. Begin online application (See Online Resources for the application screenshot)

Assignment:

1.) Draft Personal/Relevant Background and Future Goals Statement (Three page max)
   Bring TWO copies of the Personal Statement to the October 5, 2015 Feedback Workshop 4-5:30, HSN 103

2.) Draft Research Proposal (Two page maximum)
   Bring TWO copies of the Research Proposal to the October 19, 2015 Feedback Workshop 4-5:30, HSN 103

Statement and Proposal Formatting and Guidelines:

- The statements must be written using standard 8.5” x 11” page size
- 12-point, Times New Roman font or Computer Modern (LaTeX) font
- 1” margins on all sides
- Single spaced or greater
- References, footnotes, and figure captions may be a smaller font, no less than 10-point Times New Roman
• The Personal, Relevant Background and Future Goals Statement has a 3-page limit. The Graduate Research Plan Statement has a 2-page limit. The optional Eligibility Statement has a 1-page limit. All references, footnotes, citations, images, etc. are included in these page limits.

**Failure to follow these guidelines will result in an application being returned without review**

*Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts/Each document page limit: 2*

**Intellectual Merit:** How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields? How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? (If appropriate, the reviewer will comment on the quality of prior work.) To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts? How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity? Is there sufficient access to resources? If international activities are proposed, are the proposed activities relevant and do they benefit the applicant?

For example, panelists may consider the following with respect to the Intellectual Merit Criterion:

- Strength of the academic record
- Proposed plan of research
- Description of previous research experience or publication/presentations
- References
- Appropriate use of the choice of institution relative to the proposed plan for graduate education and research
- Plans for data management*

**Broader Impacts:** How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning? How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)? To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships? Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding? What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society? Background information and examples of Broader Impacts activities are available at http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2005/nsf0540/nsf0540.jsp

For example, panelists may consider the following with respect to the Broader Impacts Criterion:

- Personal, professional, and educational experiences
- Future plans and prior accomplishments in the integration of research and education
- Potential to reach diverse audiences
- Potential to benefit society
- Plans for assessment of the impact*

*New Criteria

**Online Resources:**

NSF GRFP Site: http://www.nsfgrfp.org

NSF GRFP Application Screenshot:
http://www.nsfgrfp.org/assets/File/2015%20GRFP%20application%20screenshots(1).pdf

Fastlane: https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/Login.do

Reference Letter Writer Site:

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