

The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program



nsf.gov/grfp
www.nsfgrfp.org

September 22, 2014

GRFP Goals



- To select, recognize, and financially support individuals with the demonstrated 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 – \$132,000

- Three years of support
 - \$32,000 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 - 2014:** 2,000 Fellowships each year
 - 2014: 14,000 Applications - ~14% success rate

GRFP Solicitation (NSF 14-590)

- Contains the following information:
 - Program description
 - Award information
 - Eligibility requirements
 - Application preparation
 - Submission instructions
 - Application review criteria

Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

PROGRAM SOLICITATION
NSF 14-590

REPLACES DOCUMENT(S):
NSF 13-584

 National Science Foundation
Directorate for Biological Sciences
Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering
Directorate for Education & Human Resources
Director of Graduate Education

Directorate for Engineering
Directorate for Geosciences
Directorate for Mathematical & Physical Sciences
Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences
Office of International and Integrative Activities

Application Deadline(s) (received by 9 a.m. Eastern Standard Time):

October 26, 2014
Engineering, Computer and Information Science and Engineering, Materials Research

October 30, 2014
Mathematical Sciences, Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy

November 03, 2014
Social Sciences, Psychology, STEM Education and Learning

November 03, 2014
Life Sciences, Ocean Sciences

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REVISION NOTES

1. Eligibility criteria have changed with respect to postdoctoral research.
2. Dates of study have been updated.
3. Points of study have been updated.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

General Information

Program Title:
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

Synopsis of Program:
The purpose of the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) is to help ensure the vitality and diversity of the scientific and engineering workforce of the United States. The program recognizes and supports outstanding doctoral students who are currently engaged in research master's and doctoral degrees in science and engineering. Research proposals are reviewed by the graduate directors of institutions who have demonstrated their potential for significant achievements in science and engineering.

Copyright Program Office(s):
Please note that the following information is current as of the time of publishing. See program website for any updates to the points of contact.

* Applications, contact: GRFP Operations Center, Washington, DC 20540-4757, email: info@grfp.org

GRFP Eligibility

- U.S. citizens and permanent residents
- Early-career: undergrad & grad students
- Pursuing research-based MS and PhD
- NSF supported fields (Science and Engineering fields)
- 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)

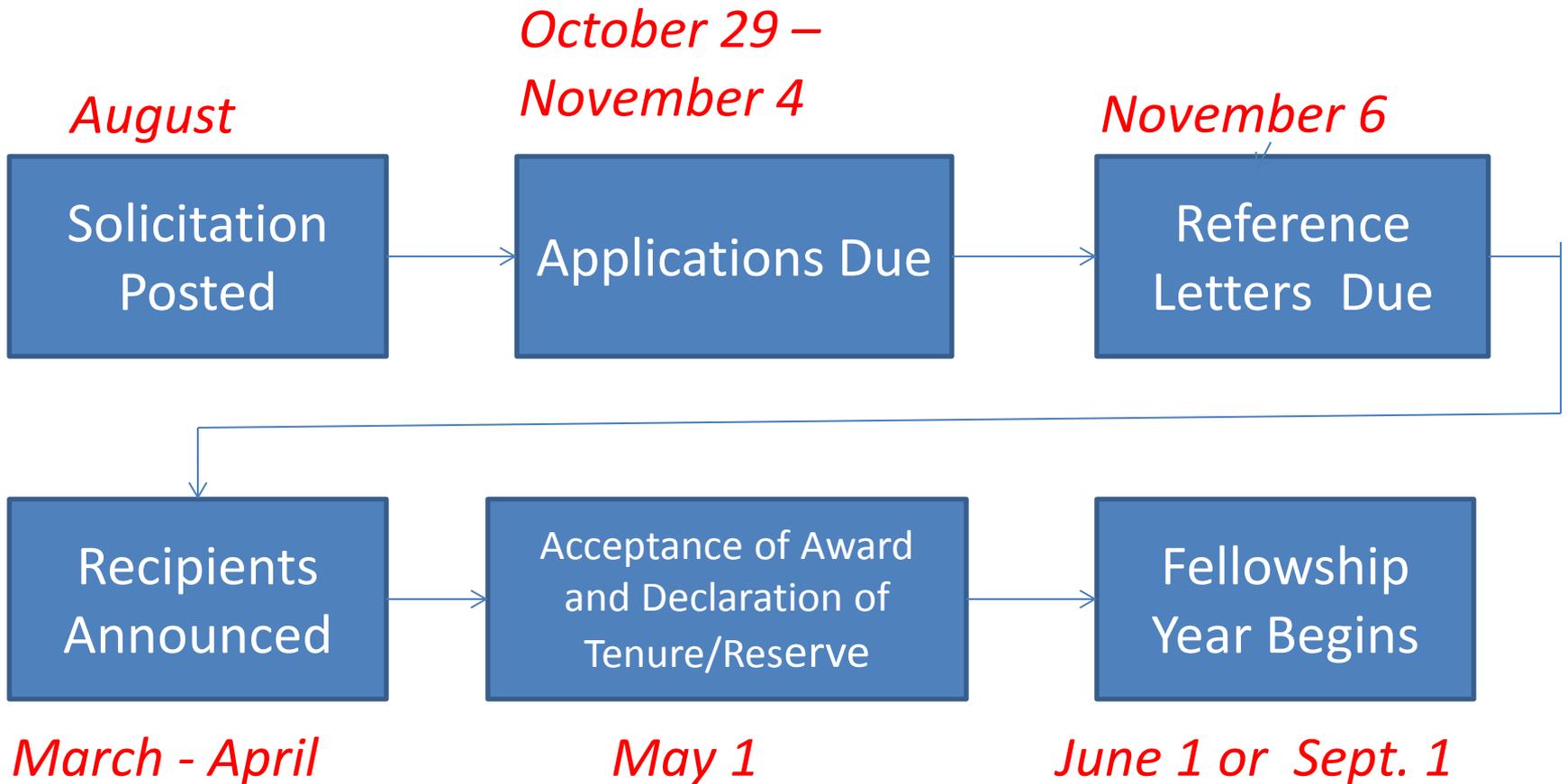


NSF-Supported Fields of Study

- Chemistry
- Computer & Information Science/Engineering
- Engineering
- Geosciences
- Life Sciences
- Materials Research
- Mathematical Sciences
- Physics and Astronomy
- Psychology
- Social Sciences
- STEM Education



GRFP Application Timeline



GRFP Complete Application

NSF FastLane

- Personal, Relevant Background and Future Goals Statement (3 pages)
- Graduate Research Statement (2 pages)
- Transcripts (uploaded electronically)
- Three letters of reference (received by 6 Nov 2014, 8 pm EST)

DEADLINES: **29, 30 October, 3, 4 November 2014**
(received by 8 pm EST)

Please see 2014 Solicitation for application details and requirements.

Preparing a GRFP Application

Demonstrate potential for STEM research

- Experiences, personal and professional, that contributed to your motivation to pursue a STEM career and your preparation for it.
- Career aspirations and goals
- Previous research/industrial/professional experiences

Describe your Research Plan

- Demonstrate understanding of research plan and methodology
- Communicate research idea and approach

Address NSF's review criteria

NSF Review Criteria

Two National Science Board-approved review criteria:

- Intellectual Merit

- Broader Impacts



NSB is the governing board of the National Science Foundation & policy advisors to the president and congress

Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts

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

AND

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

*** Separate sections for Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts**

Intellectual Merit

Demonstrated intellectual ability and other accepted requisites for scholarly scientific study, such as the ability to:

- Plan and conduct research
- Work as a member of a team as well as independently
- Interpret and communicate research

Broader Impacts

Societal benefits include, but not limited to:

- Impact of project or individual student on society
 - Increased participation of underrepresented groups, women/minority, students with disabilities, veterans
 - Improved STEM education in schools and teacher development
 - Impact on society : Increased public scientific literacy; increased public engagement with science and technology
 - Community outreach: science clubs, radio, TV, newspaper
 - Potential to impact diverse, globally competitive workforce
 - Increased partnerships between academia, industry and others
 - Leadership potential
- (Plans to share science with the broader community?)

Intellectual Merit Assessment

- Academic performance; grades, curricula, awards, etc.
- Graduate Research plan
- Research/professional experience
- Reference letters

Broader Impacts Assessment

- Prior accomplishments and future plans
- Individual experiences
- Potential benefit(s) to society
- Community outreach
- Reference letters

Two Statements

Statement 1:

Personal, relevant Background and Future Goals Statement

Describe your personal, educational and/or professional experiences that motivate your decision to pursue advanced study. Include examples of research and/or professional activities in which you have participated. Describe the contributions to **advancing knowledge** in STEM fields and the potential for **broader societal impacts**. Include future plans to contribute to broader impact.

Two Statements

Statement 2:

Graduate Research Plan Statement

Present an original research topic that you would like to pursue in graduate school. Describe the research idea, your general approach. Address the potential of the research to **advance knowledge** and understanding within science as well as the potential for **broader impacts** on society.

Application Review Process

- Applications are reviewed by panels of disciplinary and interdisciplinary scientists and engineers.
- Applications assigned to panels based on the applicant's chosen Primary Field(s) of Study and the discipline(s) represented.
- Applicants are advised to select the Primary Field of Study that is most closely aligned with the proposed graduate program of study.
- Holistic evaluation.



Reference Letters

- Three reference letters are required.
- Applicant can upload contact information of up to 5 reference letter writers

As a reference letter writer keep in mind:

- **Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts** (give specific examples)
- Deadline: Nov 6, 2014

Reviewer/Panelist

You are invited to serve as a reviewer in any of the NSF supported disciplines!

www.nsfgrfp.org/panelist/registration

Remark: We still need reviewers (in all areas), however, areas of greatest need are:

Molecular & Systems Biology

Marine Biology

Sociology

Astronomy and Astrophysics

Economics

Why fellowships?

For institutions:

- High quality graduate students selected by an independent competitive process
- Financial support
- Prestige – fellowship recipients enhance national image

Promoting GRFP on Campus

- Publicize GRFP on campus: focus on domestic students, undergrads and beginning grad students
- Identify faculty willing to mentor applicants
 - *Encourage faculty to register to serve as reviewers for GRFP*
- Hold workshops/courses
 - *Find faculty advisors and Fellows willing to participate*
- Utilize GRFP's web resources
- Reach out to GRFP Resource People on www.nsfgrfp.org
- Partner/engage with Honors College, REU Site Coordinators

GRFP Resources

- NSF GRFP Website (nsf.gov/grfp)
 - Solicitation and links
- NSF GRFP FastLane Website (fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp)
 - Application, guides, announcements
- GRFP Website (www.nsfgrfp.org)
- Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide (GROW) www.nsf.gov/grow
- Graduate Research Internship Program (GRIP) www.nsf.gov/grip or http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505127
- Current & former fellows
- Phone & e-mail
 - 866-NSF-GRFP (673-4737)
 - info@nsfgrfp.org



Q & A

GRFP FAQ

nsfgrfp.org



The screenshot shows the NSF GRFP website interface. At the top left is the GRFP logo (NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program). At the top right is the NSF logo and contact information: info@nsfgrfp.org and 866-673-4737. A search bar is located below the contact info. The main navigation bar includes: HOME, APPLICANTS, REFERENCE WRITERS, PANELISTS, FELLOWS, and GENERAL RESOURCES. The APPLICANTS, REFERENCE WRITERS, and PANELISTS items are highlighted with red boxes. A dropdown menu is open under APPLICANTS, listing: Important Dates, Eligibility, Application Components, Tips for Applying, FAQs (highlighted in blue), and Other Opportunities. Below the navigation is a large banner image of hands holding a petri dish with a globe inside. Below the banner are four columns of content: About The Program, 2015 Program Solicitation, GRFP FastLane Application, and In The News.

GRFP
NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

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- Important Dates
- Eligibility
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- Tips for Applying
- FAQs**
- Other Opportunities

About The Program

The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based Master's and doctoral degrees at accredited United States

2015 Program Solicitation

The 2015 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Solicitation has been published. All prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to review the 2015 Solicitation for important information about eligibility and supported fields of study

GRFP FastLane Application

The 2015 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Application is now open. All prospective applicants must create a login through the FastLane system to apply. All materials are uploaded via the online module.

In The News

There is a new dinosaur in town! The recent discovery of *Dreadnoughtus schrani*, coming in at 85 feet long and weighing about 65 tons in life, is the largest land animal for which a body mass can be accurately calculated. The new dinosaur belongs to a group of large plant eaters known as titanosaurs.



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