# Inside the Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)
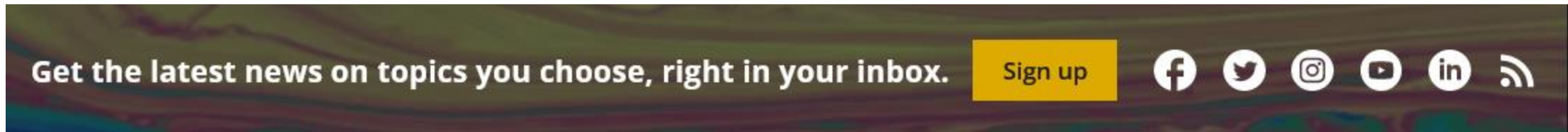
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# BIO News and Updates

Sign-up for emails on new solicitations; events; due date reminders; and BIO's quarterly newsletter, including information on new priorities and solicitations, highlights from the community, and more!

Visit www.nsf.gov and scroll down until you see the Sign up and social media banner, click on the yellow box, and follow the prompts.

Get the latest news on topics you choose, right in your inbox. | Sign up

# BIO Blogs

News, features, highlights, and more from OAD and the BIO Divisions

- BIO Buzz (OAD): https://oadblog.nsfbio.com/
- DBInfo (DBI): https://dbiblog.nsfbio.com/
- DEBrief (DEB): https://debblog.nsfbio.com/
- IOS in Focus (IOS): https://iosblog.nsfbio.com/
- MCB Blog (MCB): https://mcbblog.nsfbio.com/

# BIO Virtual Office Hours (VOH)

- Informational webinar focused on:
  - New and ongoing funding opportunities
  - Topics of general interest
  - Open questions from audience to be answered live

- Days & Times by Division (occasionally rescheduled due to holidays)
  - Division of Biological Infrastructure – 3rd Tuesday from 3-4 p.m.
  - Division of Environmental Biology – 2nd Monday from 1-2 p.m.
  - Division of Integrative Organismal Systems – 3rd Thursday from 1-2 p.m.
  - Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences – 2nd Wednesday from 2-3 p.m.

**Graduate Research Fellowship Program**
**(**GRFP)

Directorate for STEM Education (EDU)

Division of Graduate Education (DGE)

www.nsf.gov/grfp

info@nsfgrfp.org

www.nsfgrfp.org

**About GRFP**

General Information

Description

Eligibility

Ineligible Degree Programs

Ineligible Areas of Study & Proposed Research

Application Package

Review Criteria

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# DGE | DIVISION OF GRADUATE EDUCATION

## *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 <u>demonstrated the potential</u> to be high achieving scientists and engineers, <u>early in their careers</u>

- To <u>broaden participation</u> of the full spectrum of diverse talents in STEM

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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

**$37,000** ANNUAL STIPEND

**$16,000** COST OF EDUCATION ALLOWANCE

**5-YEAR** FELLOWSHIP PERIOD

**3 YEARS** FINANCIAL SUPPORT

**~ Per Competition**

**12,000+** APPLICANTS

**2,000+** OFFERS

**NO POST-GRADUATE STUDY SERVICE REQUIREMENT**

**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

**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

**EACH MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY HAS SUBFIELDS**

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**Five Year Awards – $159,000\***

**$53,000 each year for _three_ years over five-year period**

- $37,000 stipend + $16,000 education allowance paid to institution
- Payment covers all tuition and mandatory fees (no cost to student)

**Other NSF Opportunities**

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

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\*Amounts are based on GRFP Solicitation NSF 23-605 and subject to the availability of funds

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- **Fellowship:** Awarded to individual, paid through the 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 for research-based master's and doctoral degrees

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- 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
- Joint BS/MS holders ONLY: can apply as 1st year doctoral students progressed to PhD directly after completing joint BS/MS 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

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- Professional degree programs
  - E.g., MBA, MD, JD, DVM, DDS, PharmD
- 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)
- Humanities (except history of science)

**See Detailed Eligibility Requirements in the GRFP Solicitation**

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# *Ineligible Areas of Study and Proposed Research\**

## 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
- Treatment, therapy, intervention
- Research directly leading to clinical trials
- Advocacy for specific policy outcomes

## Applied research on plant pathology

- Maximizing agricultural production

## Impacts on food safety

\* See GRFP solicitation for limited exceptions to ineligible areas of study and proposed research

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# *GRFP 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)
   - Mandatory: 3 reference writer names

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# GRFP Application Specifics

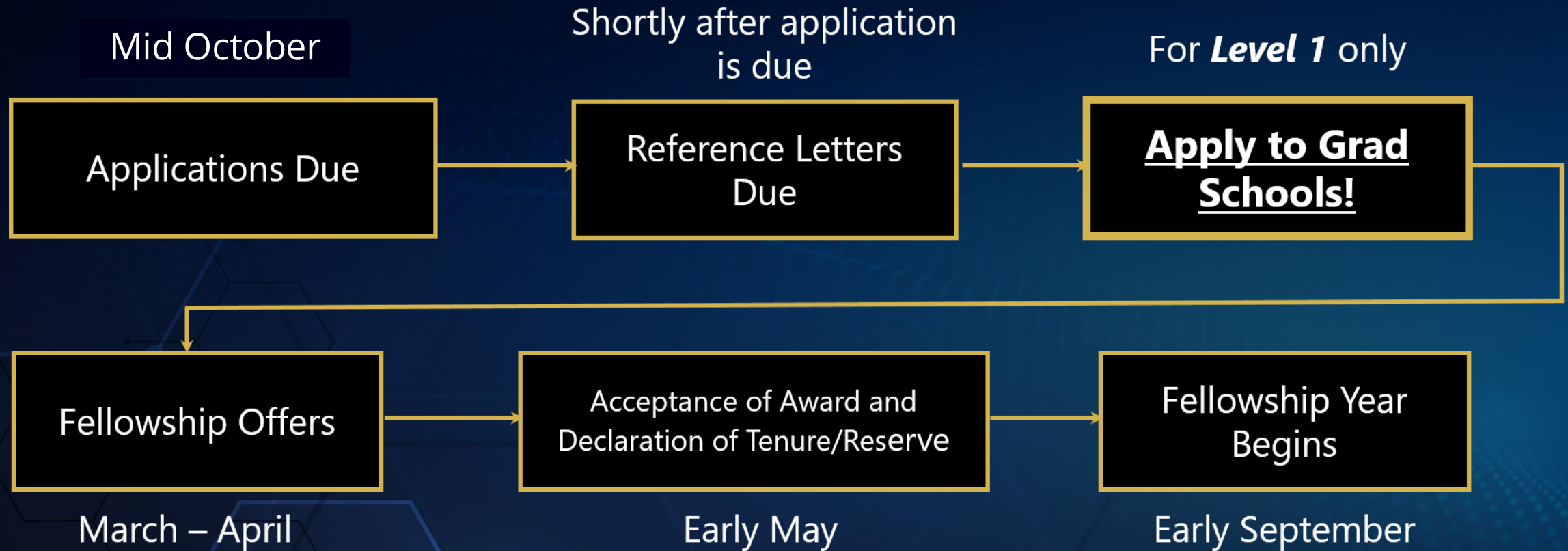**DEADLINES (5 p.m. local time of applicant mailing address):**

- Oct. 15, 2024:  Computer & Information Science & Engineering, Materials Research, Psychology, Social Sciences, STEM Education & Learning

- Oct. 16, 2024:  Life Sciences

- Oct. 17, 2024:  Engineering

- Oct. 18, 2024:  Chemistry, Geosciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physics & Astronomy

**Read the GRFP Solicitation for detailed application instructions and requirements!**

To request accessibility accommodations, please contact info@nsfgrfp.org at least four weeks before the application deadline.

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**Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)**

Two Statements

1) Personal, Relevant Background & Goals
2) Research Statement

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- 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?

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**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

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**BOTH Personal Statement and Research Plan:**

**Address NSF's Merit Review Criteria
under in separate sections**

**Intellectual Merit
Broader Impacts**

**\*USE THE TEMPLATE PROVIDED\***

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## Reference Letters

MANDATORY for Application Review

- 3 reference writer names in the application
- 2 reference letters **must be RECEIVED** by NSF

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

- List up to 5 names of reference writers
- 3 reference letters received by NSF

List and rank up to 5 reference letter writers - Top 3 will be seen by reviewers

## Transcripts – Required

- All applicants **must** submit Bachelor's degree transcript
- Transcripts **required** for all degree programs
- Transcripts **required** for all graduate degree enrollment
- Official or unofficial transcripts accepted
- Official transcripts **recommended** for 2nd year graduate students

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# Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

## 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?

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**Review considerations:**

- <u>Demonstrated potential</u> for significant achievement in STEM
- <u>Comprehensive, holistic</u> approach to review
- <u>Balanced consideration</u> to all components of the application
  - educational and research record, leadership, outreach, service activities, plans for the future, individual competencies, experiences, and other attributes

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**Evidence of potential and ability:**

- 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
- Display 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

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**Societal benefits may include, but are not limited to:**
- Increasing participation of the full spectrum of diverse talents in STEM
- Engaging in mentoring; improving STEM education in schools
- Increasing public scientific literacy; increased public engagement with STEM
- Conducting 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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# NSF GRFP Reviewers

nsfgrfp.org/reviewers

reviewers@nsfgrfp.org

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# NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellowship Program (EGFP)
## egfp@nsf.gov

## EGFP Basic Steps for Potential Fellows

### Step 1: Confirm Eligibility

- **Read** through the program solicitation, NSF 24-588
- **Meet** the eligibility criteria and Fellow requirements the solicitation outlines, including **GRFP HM designation in 2022, 2023, 2024, or 2025**
- Eligibility **is not** related to current graduate program acceptance, enrollment in a graduate degree program, nor years of graduate study

### Step 2: Register in ETAP

- If eligible, **register** in ETAP, the NSF Education & Training Application (https://etap.nsf.gov/)
- Applicants **are not** required to be in grad school at or to be associated with the EGFP institution they plan to attend before registering in ETAP
- EGFP institutions will start to be listed in ETAP in early **Spring 2025**
- **Become** familiar with EGFP institutions' available resources
- **Respond** to all ETAP and EGFP emails

### Step 3: Apply to Institutions

- **Apply** to EGFP institutions through ETAP
- Applicants **are not** required to be in grad school or to be associated with the EGFP institution they plan to attend before applying to that institution
- Applicants **can choose** a different different field of study than the one for which they received a GRFP HM
- Respond to all related emails and continue to meet program and institution requirements

**Contact EGFP:**
EGFP@nsf.gov
**Register for ETAP:**
https://etap.nsf.gov/

Fellows are funded **through institutions** for 3 years and have 5 years to utilize the funding.
Institutions receive $37,000 for stipends and $16,000 for tuition and fees each funded year per Fellow.

**For details and office hours visit:** https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/nsf-epscor-graduate-fellowship-program-egfp
**For a list of NSF EPSCoR Jurisdictions visit:** https://new.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/epscor

# NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellowship Program (EGFP)
## egfp@nsf.gov

## EGFP Basic Steps for PIs and Institutions

**Step 1:** Submit a EGFP Proposal

- **Read** through the program solicitation, NSF 24-588
- **Meet** the eligibility criteria outlined in the program solicitation which includes being in an NSF designated EPSCoR jurisdiction
- **Submit** proposal via Research.gov or Grants.gov by Oct 2, 2024, 5 p.m. local time

**Step 2:** Register in ETAP

- If you receive notification of a potential NSF EGFP award, **register** institution in ETAP (https://etap.nsf.gov/), the NSF Education & Training Application and **respond** to all EGFP emails
- If declined, **read** through reviews and available information, **contact** EGFP if there are any questions

**Step 3:** Reply to applicants

- EGFP funded institutions **reply** to student ETAP applications
- In coordination with NSF **confirm** applicant EGFP eligibility
- **Admit** or deny student admission to NSF EGFP funded programs
- **Reply** to all ETAP and EGFP emails and continue to **meet** program requirements

**Contact EGFP:** EGFP@nsf.gov
**Register for ETAP:**
https://etap.nsf.gov/

EGFP institutions **can be new to NSF** without a current association with any NSF program.
Fellows are funded **through institutions** for 3 years and have 5 years to utilize the funding.
Institutions receive $37,000 for stipends and $16,000 for tuition and fees each funded year per Fellow.

**For details and office hours visit:** https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/nsf-epscor-graduate-fellowship-program-egfp
**For a list of NSF EPSCoR Jurisdictions visit:** https://new.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/epscor

# Thank you!

**Graduate Research Fellowship Program**
(GRFP)

## Program Contacts

**info@nsfgrfp.org**

Applicants:  nsfgrfp.org/applicants

GRFP Reference Writers: nsfgrfp.org/reference_writers

GRFP Reviewers: nsfgrfp.org/reviewers

866-NSF-GRFP, 866-673-4737
(toll-free from the US & Canada)

202-331-3542 (international)

# NSF-BIO Contact Information

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- Reed Beaman, rsbeaman@nsf.gov
- Dan Marenda, dmarenda@nsf.gov
- Sally O'Connor, soconnor@nsf.gov

# Questions?