NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellowship Program (EGFP) – Team EGFP@nsf.gov

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- Rebecca "Becky" Shearman

NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellowship Program (EGFP)

EGFP supports institutions in EPSCoR jurisdictions by providing funding for graduate fellowships for new or continuing EGFP eligible students

Mission: To enhance the STEM research capacity and competitiveness of EPSCoR jurisdictions by providing funding to graduate degree-awarding institutions that will allow them to recruit NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellows

Vision: To advance graduate talent recruitment, development, and retention at graduate institutions in EPSCoR jurisdictions

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EGFP Institution Support

- EGFP awards will be made to institutions in EPSCoR jurisdictions
- Awards will provide three years of stipend and associated cost-of-education allowance for each NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellow
  - Stipends must be budgeted at the level of $37,000 per year per Fellow
    - Awardees will administer the awards such that the Fellows receive the full stipend amount
  - Cost-of-education allowances of $16,000 per year per Fellow
    - Institutions retain the full cost-of-education allowance during the three years that each Fellow receives support
  - Fellow must be given up to five years to utilize the support
- No other associated costs will be supported by EGFP

EGFP Eligible Students

- EGFP student eligibility is unrelated to EGFP institution eligibility!
- The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) reviews >12,000 applications and funds ~2,000 GRFs yearly
  - Other highly qualified GRFP applicants receive an Honorable Mention (HM) distinction
- EGFP eligible students received a notable GRFP HM distinction in the last 3 years
  - New students (E.g., transferring in, just starting graduate school, etc.)
  - Current students (E.g., transferring from MS to PhD, finishing last, etc.)
  - EGFP provides another chance at funding for graduate school
  - EGFP helps IHEs from EPSCoR jurisdictions attract and retain qualified grad students
- Having a group of distinguished applicants saves time in application reviewing
  - 2025 ~ ?? GRFP HM Recipients
  - 2024 ~ 1790 GRFP HM Recipients
  - 2023 ~ 830 GRFP HM Recipients
  - 2022 ~ 1410 GRFP HM Recipients

NSF 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

How: NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellowship Program (EGFP)

By Oct 2nd, 2024	Early Spring 2025	Spring – Summer 2025	Fall 2025 and Forward

- **PI Institutions in EPSCoR Jurisdictions** submit proposals to NSF for the number of eligible EGFP Fellows they seek to support in specific academic programs via Grants.gov or Research.gov by 5pm local time

- **NSF announces EGFP Awardee institutions,** and these institutions register in ETAP as EGFP designated institutions

- **Potential EGFP Fellows** register in ETAP and apply to EGFP designated institutions in ETAP

- **EGFP Institutions** accept/verify potential Fellows for EGFP designated programs in ETAP

- **Potential EGFP Fellows** accept EGFP Institution offers in ETAP

- **EGFP Fellows** start and/or continue graduate study at the EGFP designated institution whose attendance offer they accepted in ETAP

About ETAP
- The NSF Education and Training Application (etap.nsf.gov/) helps students find and apply to Education and Training Opportunities funded by NSF
- PIs can customize NSF's ETAP application to provide Opportunities for applicants to participate in
- ETAP does not include all of NSF Education and Training Opportunities available

"Potential EGFP Fellows" exclusively applies to applicants with the distinction of GRFP HM within the past 3 years (April 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025). See the EGFP solicitation, NSF 24-588, for details.

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egfp@nsf.gov

EGFP Steps for PI Institutions

Step 1: Submit Proposal
Now Through October 2nd, 2024

- Meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the program solicitation (NSF 24-588) which includes being in an **EPSCoR jurisdiction**
- Institutions <u>can be</u> new to NSF and without current funding
- Proposals due via Research.gov or Grants.gov by Oct 2nd, 2024, 5 pm local

Step 2: Register in ETAP
Spring 2025

- **Funded** institutions, register in ETAP https://etap.nsf.gov/
- Institutions may have additional admission requirements
- Feel free to contact EGFP (egfp@nsf.gov) with questions associated with declines
- EGFP Institutions will be listed in ETAP early Spring 2025

Step 3: Reply to applicants
Spring 2025

- Admit students to funded programs through ETAP
- Potential EGFP eligible Fellows need not have current institution affiliation
- Institutions receive $37,000 for stipends and $16,000 for tuition and fees yearly for 3 funded years (Fellows have 5 years to utilize the funding)

For additional details & 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

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egfp@nsf.gov

EGFP Steps for Potential Fellows

Step 1: Check Eligibility
Now through Spring 2025

- Meet Fellow requirements in the solicitation (NSF 24-588), including **GRFP HM designation in 2022, 2023, 2024, or 2025**
- Eligibility is **not** related to current graduate program acceptance, **nor** enrollment in a graduate degree program, **nor** years of graduate study **nor** previously chosen field of study **nor** current year factor into eligibility

Step 2: Register in ETAP
Spring 2025

- **Register** in NSF Education & Training Application (etap.nsf.gov)
- *Become familiar* with EGFP institutions and their available resources
- EGFP institution attendance is **not** required preregistration
- EGFP Institutions will be listed in ETAP early **Spring 2025**

Step 3: Apply to Institutions
Spring 2025

- **Apply** to EGFP institutions through ETAP
- Applicants **must be accepted via ETAP** by an EGFP institution and designated program to become a Fellow
- Fellows receive $37,000 for stipend and $16,000 yearly for tuition and fees (3 funded years and 5 years to utilize the funding)

For additional details & 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

The ETAP System: Connecting Students and Professionals

https://etap.nsf.gov

ETAP

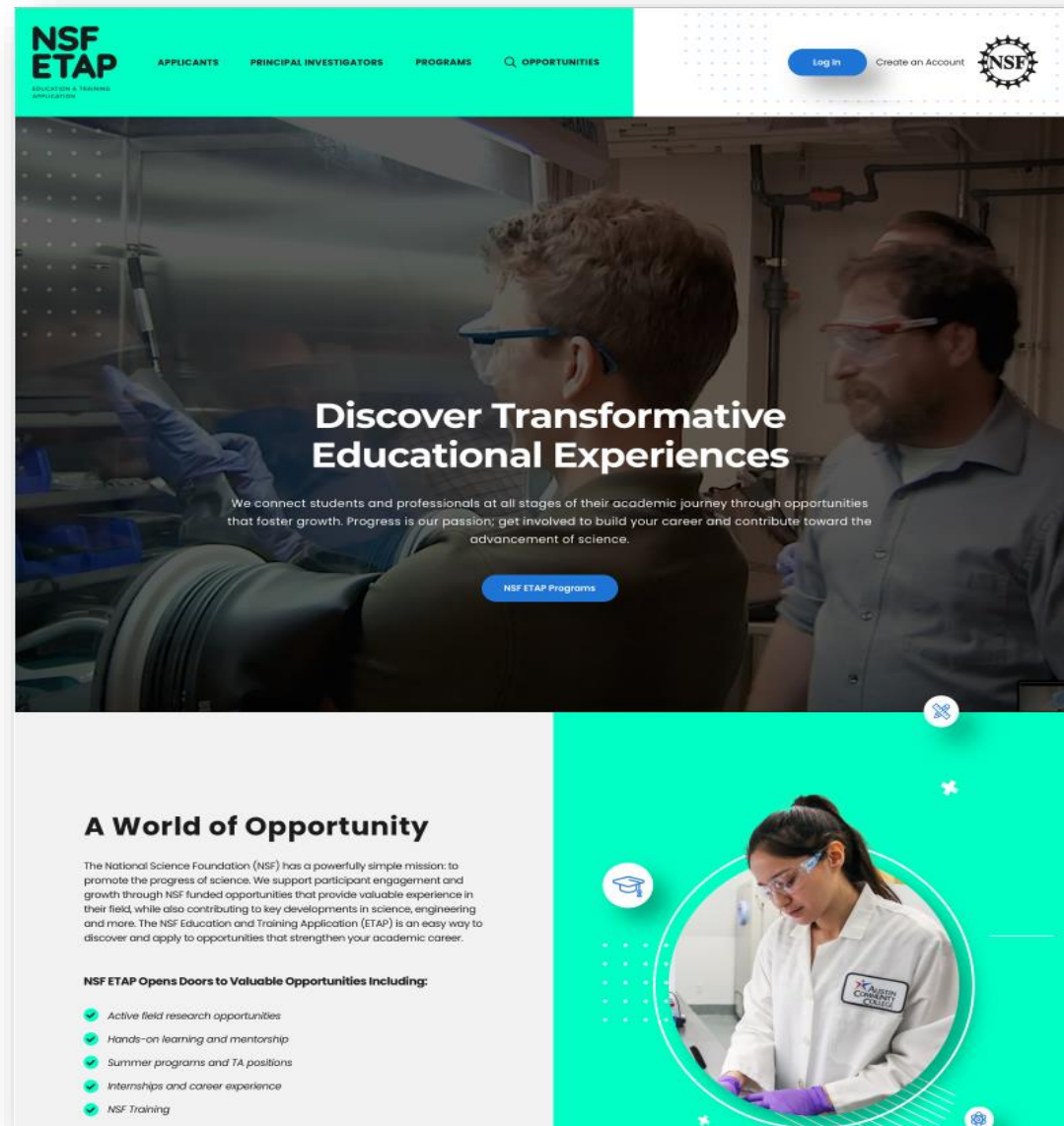**NSF Education and Training Application**
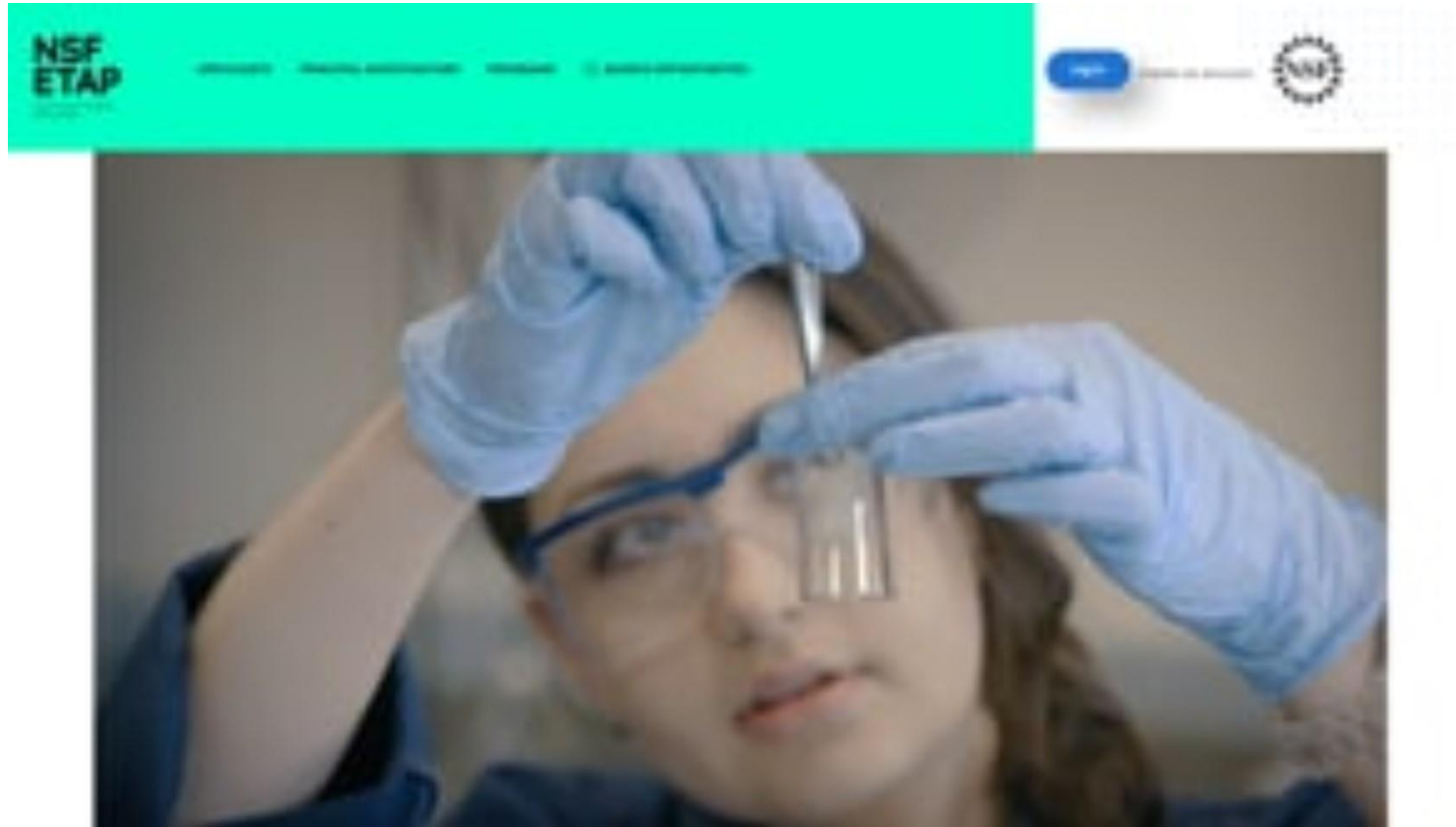https://etap.nsf.gov

/ **Designed to**

- Provide a service to the NSF community,

- Comply with congressional requirements, and

- Enhance NSF's ability to monitor and evaluate programs

/ **Connects applicants (students, post-docs, teachers) with NSF Opportunities**

/ **Gives PIs access to a customizable common application system**

ETAP introductory video

Tutorial videos available at: https://etap.nsf.gov

The NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellowship Program

Solicitation Specifics

EGFP STEM Topics and Areas Eligible for Consideration

- For **CISE, ENG GEO, MPS and SBE** related proposals must seek to engage Fellows with research on any topic normally supported
  - Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)
    - https://new.nsf.gov/cise
  - Directorate for Engineering (ENG)
    - https://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=ENG
  - Directorate for Geosciences (GEO)
    - https://new.nsf.gov/about/directorates-offices#geo
  - Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS)
    - https://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=MPS
  - Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE)
    - https://new.nsf.gov/sbe

EGFP STEM Topics and Areas Eligible for Consideration

- For **Biological Sciences (BIO)** related proposals will be considered that engage Fellows with research on any topic normally supported by the Directorate for Biological Sciences
  - An emphasis on proposals that combine biology and artificial intelligence, that advance the bioeconomy, and/or create solutions for a resilient planet
  - https://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=BIO

- For **STEM Education (EDU)** related proposals must provide support for graduate students pursuing a master's or doctoral degree in STEM education
  - This includes degrees offered within STEM disciplines that involve discipline-based education research
  - https://new.nsf.gov/edu

EGFP STEM Topics and Areas Eligible for Consideration

- Proposals that provide support for graduate students pursuing a master's or doctoral degree in a STEM discipline aligned with an EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) award within the jurisdiction will be considered in alignment with the **NSF Office of Integrative Activities (OIA)**
    - These submissions should focus on leveraging existing NSF EPSCoR RII investments to improve research, education, broadening participation, and economic development in the jurisdiction
    - Proposals should identify graduate student experiences that synergize with the currently funded RII project(s) in ways that engage in academic, government, and private sector partners, as appropriate
    - Currently funded RII projects may be found at https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/ and via the websites of EPSCoR jurisdictions, or by contacting an NSF EPSCoR RII Program Director (nsfepscor@nsf.gov)

EGFP STEM Topics and Areas Eligible for Consideration

- Proposals engaging Fellows in graduate curricula designed in collaboration with non-academic employers to address skills gaps that are the focus of the Directorate for **Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP)** will be considered, https://new.nsf.gov/tip/latest

- NSF recognizes that each of these emerging technology areas spans multiple fields of study and expects graduate program offerings to demonstrate such multi-disciplinary training and supports the full range of critical and emerging technologies, including the key technology focus areas:
  - Advanced manufacturing
  - Advanced materials
  - Artificial intelligence
  - Biotechnology
  - Communications and wireless
  - Cyberinfrastructure and advanced computing
  - Cybersecurity
  - Disaster risk and resilience
  - Energy technology
  - Quantum information science
  - Semiconductors and microelectronics

- Graduate programs eligible for support must incorporate experiential learning and problem-solving components beyond traditional research activities typically expected of graduate programs in STEM fields

- **Industry and policy-based experiential learning opportunities are strongly preferred**

EGFP General Institution Responsibilities

- Institutional Responsibilities - Proposing institutions must
  - Be prepared to provide a high-quality graduate experience in the discipline(s) in which each Fellow will pursue a graduate degree
  - Provide clear evidence of an existing graduate program in the discipline(s) relevant to the proposal
    - Focus on one or more EGFP topics or areas described to be considered (Others will be returned without review)
    - Present a plan for ensuring that all project participants, including employees of the proposing institution, as well as supported Fellows, will comply with NSF's requests for information related to program-level evaluation, including requests to participate in surveys, interviews, and other methods for collecting evaluation data
    - Ensure potential Fellows be informed of and agree to this obligation prior to receiving support
    - Provide a graduate student Mentoring Plan, prepared in accordance with the guidance contained in the PAPPG
    - Certify that every graduate student receiving substantial support through this program had an Individual Development Plan (IDP)
    - Use ETAP to recruit and accept prospective Fellows
- Requirements in the PAPPG that apply to all NSF research proposals and awards apply to EGFP proposals and awards

EGFP General Fellow Responsibilities

- Fellow Responsibilities
  - Connect with institutions offering fellowships via the NSF Education and Training Application (ETAP)
  - Submit any additional documentation required by the institution(s) offering fellowships to be considered for support
  - Must be enrolled full-time in an eligible master's or doctoral degree-granting program and make ongoing satisfactory progress toward completion of their graduate degree
  - Must remain enrolled in a degree program in the same discipline as when they were admitted by institution
  - Full-time enrollment must be certified by the awardee institution's registrar (or equivalent)

- Fellowships are granted by the institution and not portable to another institution

- If a Fellow transfers to another institution, the Fellow will forfeit continued access to the fellowship

EGFP Award Information

Anticipated Type of Award:
Continuing Grant

Estimated Number of Awards:
5 to 35

Anticipated Program Funding Amount:
$17,000,000

Required Minimum:	Anticipated average:	Anticipated max:
3 Fellows	5 Fellows	No more than 20 Fellows
Three years = $477,000 total	Three years = $795,000 total	Three years, $3,180,000 total

Cost Sharing: Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited

Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. Institution's local time):
October 02, 2024
June 02, 2025
June 01, 2026

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EGFP Funding: Other Budgetary Limitations:

- Fellows receives support for up to 3 years utilized during a 5-year period
  - Proposal should develop a three-year budget for the project in which all the funds requested are evenly distributed across the three project years
  - During the years in which students are receiving fellowship support, the institution is required to exempt Fellows from paying tuition and fees normally charged to students of similar academic standing
    - Unless such charges are optional or are refundable
      - i.e., the institution is responsible for tuition and required fees in excess of the cost-of-education allowance
    - A Fellow's cost-of-education allowance, to be used at the discretion of the institution, can only be charged to the award during the year that the Fellow receives a stipend
- Both stipends and cost-of-education allowances must be listed as Participant Support Costs in the NSF proposal budget

National Science Board approved (NSB) Merit Review Criteria

- NSF proposals are evaluated using NSB approved merit review criteria:
    - Broader Impacts: The potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes
    - Intellectual Merit: The potential to advance knowledge
  - Both criteria are given full consideration during the review and decision-making processes; neither, by itself, is sufficient

- Proposals reviewers are asked to consider what the proposers want to do, why they want to do it, how they plan to do it, how they will know if they succeed, and what benefits could accrue if the project is successful
  - Issues apply both to the technical aspects of the proposal and the way in which the project may make broader contributions
  - Reviewers will also be asked to review the Data Management and Sharing Plan and the Mentoring Plan, as appropriate

- **Additional EGFP review criteria are detailed in the EGFP Solicitation**

Becoming an EGFP Reviewer

- EGFP welcomes qualified reviewers from the academic, industrial, and government sectors

- Benefits to You as a Reviewer
  - You are providing a great service to NSF and the STEM community
  - Reviewers benefit from reviewing and serving on panels. For example,
    - reviewers gain firsthand knowledge of the peer review process;
    - learn about common problems with proposals;
    - discover strategies to write strong proposals;
    - and, through serving on a panel, meet colleagues and NSF program officers managing programs related to your interests

- Send an e-mail to EGFP@nsf.gov
  - Email Subject: EGFP Reviewer Interest
    - Introduce yourself and identify your areas of expertise
    - Attach a short CV with current contact information
  - If you are selected the EGFP team will contact you with additional details

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Things to Know

- The EGFP Solicitation should be your first stop for questions

- Your second stop for question should be the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG), NSF 24-1: https://new.nsf.gov/policies/pappg/24-1

- (Optional) EGFP 20-minute PO One-on-Ones
  - Available: July 29 - Sept 13
  - Not required for full-proposal submission
  - Meeting requirements:
    - One proposal outline
      - No need to be overly detailed
      - Papers should include the field of study and how the proposal will align with solicitation-specific criteria
      - Outlines should be emailed to EGFP@nsf.gov
      - Once a paper is received, a program officer will contact the PI to make an appointment

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EPSCoR Live: NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellowship Program (EGFP)

Narcrisha Norman (EDU/DGE) and Jeanne Small(OIA)

Full Proposal Deadline(s) (5 p.m. local time)
- October 02, 2024
- June 02, 2025

Questions