

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)

Website: www.nsf.gov/grfp

E-mail: info@nsfgrfp.org

Website: www.nsfgrfp.org

About GRFP



General Information

Description

Eligibility

Ineligible Degree Programs

Ineligible Areas of Study &
Proposed Research

Application Package

Review Criteria

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 early-career individuals with the demonstrated potential to be high achieving scientists and engineers
- To broaden participation of the full spectrum of diverse talent that society has to offer which includes underrepresented and under-served communities



ABOUT NSF GRFP



U.S. National Science Foundation

SINCE 1952

70,000+
GRFPS AWARDED

40+ FELLOWS
HAVE GONE ON TO
BECOME NOBEL
LAUREATES

FELLOWS FROM/IN EVERY STATE

450+ FELLOWS

HAVE BECOME MEMBERS
OF THE NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



ANNUAL
STIPEND
\$37,000



EDUCATION
ALLOWANCE
\$16,000

5-YEAR

FELLOWSHIP
PERIOD

3 YEARS

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

NO POST-
GRADUATE STUDY
SERVICE
REQUIREMENT

~ Per Competition

12,000+ APPLICANTS

2,000+ OFFERS

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](https://www.nsfgrfp.org)

DECISION
TREE

FORMAT
COMPLIANCE
CHECK

ELIGIBLE MAJOR FIELDS OF STUDY

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

Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

DESCRIPTION



Five Year Awards – \$159,000*

\$53,000 each year for three years over a 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)



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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Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

ELIGIBILITY



National Science Foundation
Directorate for STEM Education (EDU)



- 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

Only
apply
once

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



- 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**



*Ineligible Areas of Study and Proposed Research**

Research with directly health-related

goals (limited exceptions for CS, Math, Physics, ENG)

- 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



Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

Application Package





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



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

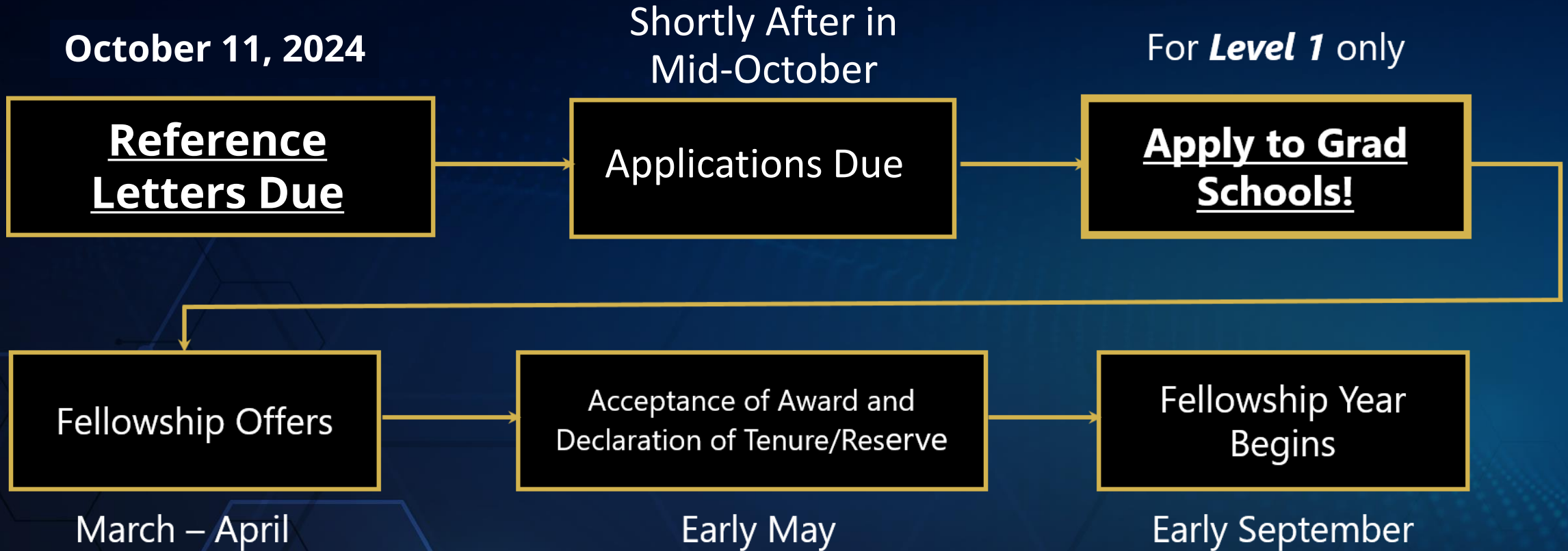
- Oct. 15, 2024: Chemistry, Geosciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physics & Astronomy
- Oct. 16, 2024: Life Sciences
- Oct. 17, 2024: Engineering
- Oct. 18, 2024: Computer & Information Science & Engineering, Materials Research, Psychology, Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences, STEM Education & Learning

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.



Example GRFP Application Timeline



Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

Two Statements

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



Personal, Relevant Background & Goals

- 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?

**Clearly address NSF's Merit Review Criteria – Intellectual Merit and
Broader Impacts – under SEPARATE headings**



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

Clearly address NSF's Merit Review Criteria – Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts – under SEPARATE headings



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



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?



Review considerations:

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



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

Societal benefits may include, but are not limited to:

- Increasing participation of the full spectrum of diverse talent 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



START EARLY!!

Read the NSF GRFP Solicitation thoroughly and follow the instructions.

Familiarize yourself with the application module.

Reference Letters are due **October 11th at 5 p.m. Eastern Time**

- **Two to four weeks before:** Submit names and accurate e-mail addresses of at least three reference writers.
- **About a week before:** Remind reference writers to submit letters by 5 p.m. Eastern Time, October 11.
- **Earlier Deadline!** Reference Letters in BEFORE application deadline.



Major Field of Study:

- **Check the deadline** for your Major Field of Study.
- Your selected Major Field of Study **must** match your proposed graduate degree program – you will not be awarded if these do not match!
- You **cannot change** the Major Field of Study associated with your application after submission.



Statements:

- Include **SEPARATE** headings for **Broader Impacts** and **Intellectual Merit** in both Research and Personal statements.
- Use templates in the application module.
- **DO NOT USE** statements from previous applications; formatting requirements have changed.



Academic History:

- Enrollment and degree dates in your application **must** match your transcript(s).
- **Attention graduate students!**
 - **Joint Bachelor's-Master's program students**
 - Must submit a letter from your Registrar confirming enrollment in a joint program if transcript does not indicate joint degree.
 - **Current graduate students**
 - Strongly recommended to submit official transcripts showing you have **completed no more than one academic year** of graduate study.



Honorable Mention

- No GRFP wait list

NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellowship Program (EGFP) NSF 24-588

- At funded institutions in EPSCoR jurisdictions to provide fellowships to qualifying GRFP Honorable Mentions (HM)
- HMs apply DIRECTLY to EGFP institution for EGF (new and continuing students eligible)
- \$37,000 stipend, \$16,000 education allowance to institution for 3 years over 5-year period
- EGFs must enroll and remain at an EGFP institution

Contact: EGFP@nsf.gov



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Ask faculty to review!

NSF GRFP Reviewers

nsfgrfp.org/reviewers

reviewers@nsfgrfp.org



National Science Foundation
Directorate for STEM Education (EDU)



Thank you!

**Graduate Research Fellowship Program
(GRFP)**

Program Contacts

E-Mail: info@nsfgrfp.org

Applicants: www.nsfgrfp.org/applicants

GRFP Reviewers: www.nsfgrfp.org/reviewers

**GRFP Reference Writers:
www.nsfgrfp.org/reference_writers**

Phone: 866-NSF-GRFP, 866-673-4737

(Toll-Free from the US & Canada)

202-331-3542 (International)

nsfgrfp.org