

Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)



ABOUT NSF GRFP

SINCE 1952



70,000+ GRFS AWARDED



40+ NOBEL
LAUREATES

Fellows
from/in
every
state

450+ NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCE MEMBERS



\$37,000 Annual Stipend

\$16,000 Cost of Education (COE)

COE covers all tuition and mandatory fees

5-YEAR
Fellowship
Period

3 YEARS
Financial
Support

NO POST-GRADUATE
STUDY SERVICE
REQUIREMENT

~Per Competition

12,000+ Applicants

500+ Academic Institutions Represented

Submit Early



U.S. National
Science Foundation

OPEN TO:



Individuals Pursuing
RESEARCH-BASED
MASTER'S & DOCTORAL DEGREES
in Eligible Fields of Study

NSF.gov/grfp

DECISION TREE
FORMAT COMPLIANCE CHECK

ELIGIBLE MAJOR FIELDS OF STUDY

Including High-Priority Research Areas



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



NSF GRFP Benefits: Overview

- Five-Year Award – \$159,000
 - \$37,000 stipend + \$16,000 cost of education (COE) paid to institution
 - COE payment covers ALL tuition and mandatory fees (no cost to student)
 - \$53,000 each year for three years over a five-year period
- Other NSF Opportunities
 - Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASSED)
 - Career-Life Balance Initiative (family leave)





Understanding the NSF GRFP Notice of Funding Opportunity

The NSF GRFP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is an official announcement that provides instructions, eligibility criteria, and evaluation guidelines for submitting competitive applications.

- Updated each year and is available on the NSF website.
- Outlines the deadlines for the eligible Major Fields of Study, reference letters, and much more.

Please read the NSF GRFP Notice of Funding Opportunity thoroughly.



At a Glance: Eligibility vs. Ineligibility

(See NSF GRFP Notice of Funding Opportunity for detailed eligibility requirements)



ELIGIBLE

- ✓ U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent residents
- ✓ Must intend to enroll or be enrolled in an eligible research-based master's or doctoral degree program in an eligible field of study
- ✓ Undergraduate students in the final year of a bachelor's degree program
- ✓ Bachelor's degree holders with no prior graduate degree enrollment
- ✓ Joint bachelor's-master's degree students in final undergraduate or first graduate year
- ✓ First-year graduate students in first graduate degree program



INELIGIBLE

- ✗ Visa holders
- ✗ Foreign institutions
- ✗ Second-year (and beyond) graduate students
- ✗ Intend to enroll in ineligible fields of study



Understanding the NSF GRFP Application Package

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 Plan Statement (2-page PDF)
4. Official Undergraduate Academic Transcripts (PDFs; required); Official or Unofficial Graduate Transcript or Course Record
5. Letters of Reference
 - Required: Three (3) reference writer *names* must be provided by applicant
 - Required: Two (2) reference *letters* must be received by NSF





NSF GRFP Application: Timeline

Reference letters are due before the applications.

Mid-October 2026:
Reference Letters Due



Late October 2026:
Applications Due*
*(*Check NSF GRFP Notice of
Funding Opportunity for specific
Field of Study due dates.)*





NSF GRFP Application: Timeline After Submission

Undergraduate students must apply for graduate schools and be enrolled by September 1, 2027.





Understanding Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts

Applications are reviewed using two equally weighted NSF Merit Review Criteria: Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts. Evidence of Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts should appear throughout the entire NSF GRFP application package.



Comprehensive Review for Applications

NSF GRFP Merit Review Considerations

Review considerations for applications will include:

- Demonstrated potential for significant achievement in STEM
- A comprehensive approach to review
- A balanced consideration to all components of the application:
 - Educational and research record, leadership, outreach, service activities, future plans, individual competencies, experiences, and other attributes (e.g., creativity, innovation, perseverance)



Program Contacts

- **NSF GRFP – Program Information Website: [NSF.gov/grfp](https://www.nsf.gov/grfp)**
- **NSF GRFP Application Module Website: <https://www.research.gov/grfp/Login.do>**
- **NSF IT Service Desk: <https://www.research.gov/research-web/content/contactus>**



Thank You

