



Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB)

Virtual Office Hours

Welcome!

We will begin at 2pm ET



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Questions and Answers

Submit your questions via the Q&A box on your screen

- You may elect to submit your question anonymously.
- For specific questions about your project, please contact a Program Director.

Next MCB Virtual Office Hours

September 11, 2024: [Post-doctoral Research Fellowships in Biology](#)

MCB Virtual Office Hour

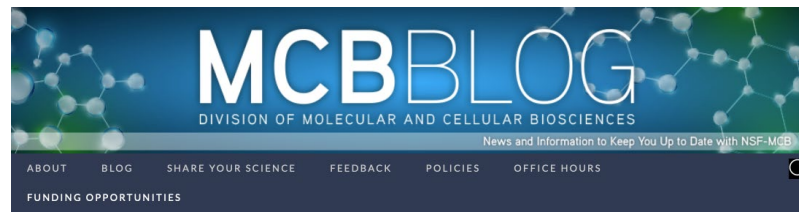
Today's Topic:

Graduate Research Fellowship Program

GRFP - NSF 24-591

Slides and recordings of past presentations at

<https://mcbblog.nsfbio.com/office-hours/2/>



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)

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

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 demonstrated the potential to be high achieving scientists and engineers, early in their careers
- 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



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

**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

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

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)



- **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



- 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



- 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





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):

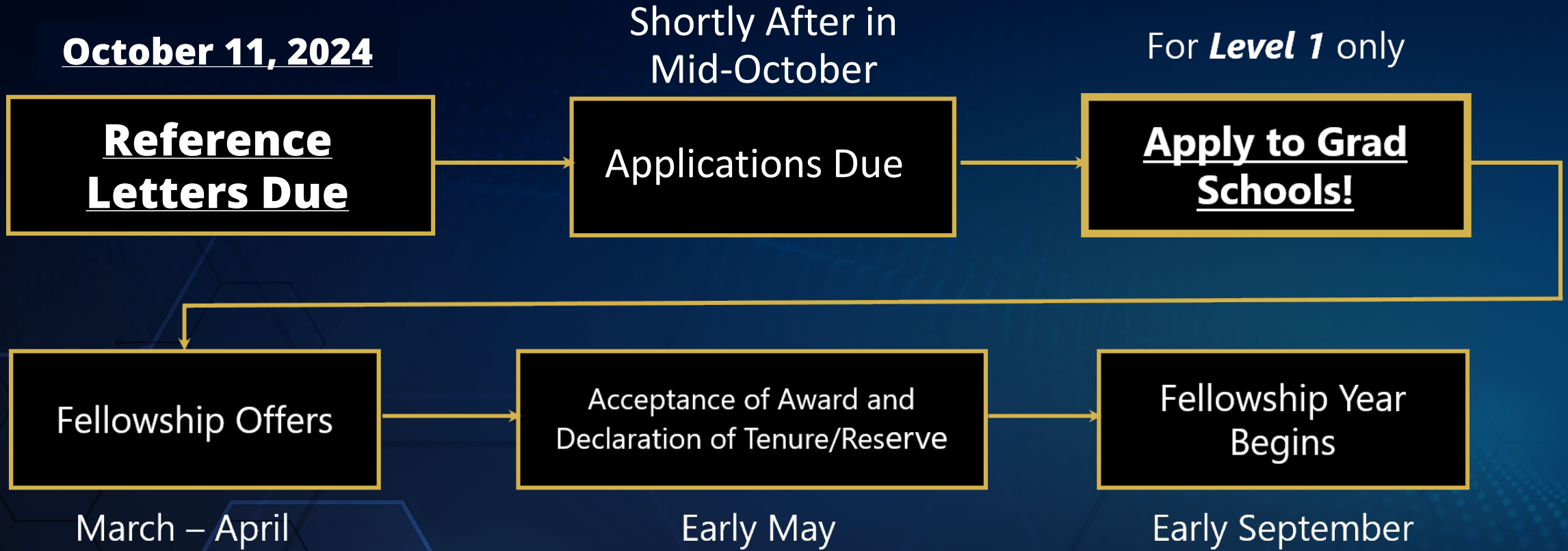
- Oct. 15, 2024: Computer & Information Science & Engineering, Materials Research, Psychology, Social Sciences, STEM Education & Learning
- Oct. 16, 2024: Life Sciences
- Oct. 17, 2024: Engineering
- Oct. 18, 2024: Chemistry, Geosciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physics & Astronomy

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.



Example GRFP Application Timeline



Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

Two Statements

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



- 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**



BOTH Personal Statement and Research Plan:

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

Intellectual Merit
Broader Impacts

USE THE TEMPLATE PROVIDED



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 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



- **Familiarize** yourself with the module.
- **Read** the NSF GRFP Solicitation thoroughly and follow the instructions.
- **Reference Letters:**
 - **October 1st:** Submit names and accurate e-mail addresses of at least three reference writers.
 - **October 4th:** Remind reference writers to submit letters by 5 p.m. Eastern Time on October 11th.
 - **Earlier Deadline! October 11th at 5 p.m. Eastern Time:** Reference letters are due before your 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** your major field of study after submission.



•Statements:

- Use templates in the application module.
- Do not use** statements from previous Fellows; formatting requirements have changed.
- Both research and personal statements must include **separate** headings for **Broader Impacts & Intellectual Merit**.

•Academic History:

- Enrollment and degree dates in your application **must** match your transcript(s).
- Joint Bachelor's-Master's program students:** Submit a letter from your Registrar confirming enrollment in a joint program.
- Current graduate students:** If you have any summer enrollment, we strongly recommend that you submit official transcripts showing you have completed **no more than** one academic year of graduate study.



Ask faculty to review!

NSF GRFP Reviewers

nsfgrfp.org/reviewers

reviewers@nsfgrfp.org





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)

nsfgrfp.org

Upcoming...

Office hours:

- Wednesday September 11th, 2024, 2-3 pm ET

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology - [NSF 24-593](#)

Deadline: November 7, 2024

Funding opportunities:

See [Funding Opportunities](#) page on MCB blog for relevant funding calls and deadlines.