Multifactor Authentication Options for Research.gov Sign-in

Effective on Oct. 27, 2024, the U.S. National Science Foundation is implementing multifactor authentication (MFA) for Research.gov sign-in. See Dear Colleague Letter (NSF 25-011) for details. Training resources including how-to guides and FAQs will be available on the new About Research.gov Sign In page on Research.gov Help on Oct. 27.

Users can still sign into Research.gov with NSF, InCommon, or Login.gov credentials but must use MFA per **Table 1**. Users signing into Research.gov with NSF credentials must enroll in an MFA method in Research.gov per **Table 2**.

Table 1

Research.gov Sign in Option	MFA Enrollment	Prerequisite
NSF Credentials: • NSF ID + Password • Primary Email + Password	Through Research.gov: • Users must enroll in MFA method in Research.gov • MFA enrollment will be available starting on Oct. 27 • Step-by-step enrollment instructions available on Oct. 27	• Users with administrative or financial roles must use a phishing-resistant MFA method • Other users such as PIs and reviewers can use any of the MFA options* *However, NSF encourages all users to use a phishing-resistant MFA method*
Organization-Issued Credentials** ***InCommon Federation participating organizations only*	• Through InCommon Federation participating organization	• InCommon organization must enforce MFA for system access on the organization's side
Login.gov Credentials	• Through Login.gov	• Users must use a phishing-resistant MFA in Login.gov

Table 2

	User Role		MFA Options Set Up in Research.gov
Phishing-resistant MFA	**Users with Administrative or Financial Roles:** • Awardee Preparer • Awardee Certifier • Awardee Financial Representative • Proposed Postdoctoral Fellow • Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR)	• Sponsored Projects Officer (SPO) • Foreign Financial Disclosure Report (FFDR) Preparer • View Only (View Reports)	• Passkey • PIN • Fingerprint (biometric) • Facial Recognition (biometric) • Security Key
MFA	**Other Users:** • Principal Investigator (PI) or co-Principal Investigator (co-PI) • Other Authorized User (OAU) • Reviewers (includes *ad hoc* reviewers, panelists, and other meeting participants) • Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) Applicant • GRFP Fellow	• GRFP Coordinating Official (CO) • GRFP Alternate Coordinating Official (Alt. CO) • GRFP Financial Official (FO) • Users without roles including newly registered users, reference letter writers, and Education & Training Application (ETAP) participants	• Google Authenticator • Okta Verify *Google Authenticator or Okta Verify app must be downloaded and installed to mobile device.*

***Note:** Users with administrative or financial roles must use a phishing-resistant MFA. Other users can opt to use a phishing-resistant MFA.*