

NSF-GRFP

Workshop for 2019 Applicants



Oregon State
University

Agenda

- Quick Intro to NSF-GRFP
 - Benefits of the GRFP
 - Eligibility guidelines
 - Research and personal statement merit criteria
- Interview with a former NSF GRFP Reviewer
- Student Panel Q & A

Disclaimer!

The information provided in this presentation relative to the NSF-GRFP award competition represents the opinions and experiences of the presenters only. It does not guarantee any results relative to the NSF GRFP.

National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

5 year award (3 years **active tenure**, 2 years **reserve tenure**)

Fellows at OSU receive:

- Stipend of \$34,000/year
- Tuition and mandatory fee coverage
- Health insurance coverage (fellow only)
- Research expense allowance of \$1,500/year

National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

Fellows are also eligible for special opportunities and funding during tenure, including:

GROW-Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide

International research collaboration

GRIP-Graduate Research Internship Program

Research internships with federal agencies

INTERN-non-academic research internships for graduate students

Supplemental funding for projects with industry, start-ups, government agencies, national labs, policy think-tanks, or non-profits.

Eligibility

Generally, this is who can apply:

- Undergraduate students in final year of study, will be expected have Bachelor's degree and begin graduate school the following Fall.
- Bachelor's degree holders who have not enrolled in graduate school
- Graduate students may apply in their first or second year of graduate school, but only once.
 - If you have completed >12 months of graduate school, you may still be eligible if you have had an interruption of at least 2 consecutive years.

Be sure to review the specific details of eligibility in the NSF solicitation!

NSF-GRFP Application Components

- Field of Study-choose carefully!
- Transcripts-unofficial is fine if they meet NSF requirements.
- Application
 - Publications
 - Presentations
 - Fellowships, Grants, and Awards
 - Professional Experience
- 3 Reference Letters-each must be 2 pages or less
- Two Required Statements (Essays)

NSF Merit Review Criteria

Intellectual Merit

- What is the potential to advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?
- To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
- Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?
- How well qualified is the individual, team, or organization to conduct the proposed activities?

NSF 13-1 January 2013, Chapter III

Broader Impacts

“NSF projects, in the aggregate, should contribute more broadly to achieving societal goals. These broader impacts may be accomplished through the research itself, through activities that are directly related to specific research projects, or through activities that are supported by, but are complementary to, the project”

The National Science Foundation, 2013. Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide Chapter III.A.1 (NSF 14-1)

NSF Merit Review Criteria-Examples

Intellectual Merit--demonstrated potential to advance knowledge

- Using a diverse set of tools and approaches to solve a problem
- Becoming the authority on a subject in your research group
- Taking on challenging research projects and coursework and succeeding
- Fascination or curiosity about a set of scientific problems

Broader Impacts--demonstrated potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

- Created an open-source programming toolkit
- Served as a mentor for younger researchers
- STEM outreach programs for schools or general public
- Active in campus and national organizations

Research Statement

If you could study anything in graduate school, what would it be?

4 Core Components:

- 1) Knowledge gap to be filled
- 2) Research objective
- 3) Experimental approach
- 4) Merit criteria (**explicit** sections detailing IM and BI)

Also Consider:

- 1) Hypothesis / methodological standards
- 2) How will you know if you succeeded?

Personal Statement

“The NSF-GRFP funds people, not projects.”
-- Program Director Gisele Muller-Parker

Contains:

- Previous research and outreach experience
- Academic and career goals
- What makes you unique!

Make it a story-narrative style writing is much easier to read-but don't feel like it needs to be a chronological telling of your accomplishments and experiences.

Reference Letters

- Try to get multiple perspectives that can tell reviewers about multiple aspects of your personality and experience
- Give your reference information about you that they might not have
- Ask your reference to address specific items that you think they can speak to
 - Ask your references if you can see their letter so you are aware of everything going into your application.
 - Some references may ask for your help in drafting or editing their letter
- Point them towards the Tips for Reference Writers page on the NSF GRFP Website (https://www.nsfgrfp.org/reference_writers/tips)

Synergy!

“Many compelling applications include components that work well together – the information is consistent without being repetitive; each component offers different information about the applicant as a researcher and a person.” NSF GRFP Website

Activity: NSF Merit Review Criteria

In your own words, write down:

- 1) What does the intellectual merit criteria mean to you? How can you tell if a project or person has intellectual merit?
- 2) What does the broader impact criteria mean to you? How can you tell if a project or person is having a broader impact?

Be thinking about how your experiences exemplify these criteria.

Activity: Interview with a former reviewer

Activity: Q & A with current fellows

Debrief

Be sure to check the due dates and requirements.

Time is of the essence (due dates 10/21-10/25)

- Contact your letter writers and let your advisor know you are applying if you haven't already.
- Recommendation Letter deadline is November 1st.

Be on the lookout for the evaluation survey and access to the OSU Graduate School Google Drive with these powerpoint slides, some writing tips and activities, and previous NSF-GRFP Essays.

- URL will be provided to all attendees for this session via OSU email.
- Essays are the intellectual property of the owners. Do not copy or distribute.

Tomorrow:

GRFP writing workshop with the Graduate Writing Center