

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](https://www.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
- ☒ Previous enrollment in a graduate degree program (non-degree courses not counted)



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 Field of Study Deadlines

DEADLINES (8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time):

- October 16, 2026 - Reference Letters Due
- October 19, 2026 - Life Sciences
- October 20, 2026 - Computer and Information Science and Engineering; Materials Research; Psychology; Social Sciences
- October 22, 2026 - Engineering
- October 23, 2026 - Chemistry; Geosciences; Mathematical Sciences; Physics; Astronomy

Read the NSF GRFP Notice of Funding Opportunity for detailed application instructions and requirements!

To request accessibility accommodations, please contact the Program at least three (3) weeks before the application deadline.





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>**



Tips & Resources



NSF Graduate Research
Fellowship Program
(GRFP)



[Tips and resources](#) for
Applicants



NSF Graduate Research
Fellowship Program (GRFP)
Applicants One-Pager



NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
Program (GRFP): for Reviewers



NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
Program (GRFP): Reviewers One Pager



Thank You

