

# NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

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***GRF Operations Center***

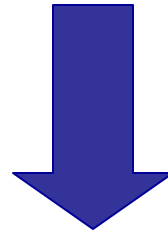
# What Is the National Science Foundation?



- Funds national science & engineering leadership
- Supports learning & discovery
- Is a career-long presence in researchers' work

# Why the GRFP?

Goal: “to promote the vitality and diversity of the human resource base in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.”



Support **future leaders** in these fields

# GRF Benefits



- Three years of support
- \$30,000 annual stipend
- \$10,500 cost-of-education allowance
- Used at the graduate school of your choice

# Are you Eligible?



- Senior year or early graduate study
- Citizenship
- Research Field



# How to Succeed: *Understand NSF Review Criteria*

- NSF employs two broad review criteria

***Intellectual Merit***

***Broader Impacts***

- Your application is evaluated using these criteria

# *Intellectual Merit*

## Ability to:



- Plan and conduct research
- Work independently *and* in a team
- Interpret and communicate research findings

# *Broader Impacts*

## ■ Activities and Projects that:



- Integrate research and education
- Communicate your methodology and findings to a diverse audience
- Encourage diversity and enable full participation
- Enhance scientific and technical understanding
- Benefit your community

# Application Material

- Your **“original”** material includes:

- Proposed Plan of Research
- Previous Research Experience Essay
- Personal Statement

(Personal, Professional and Education Experiences that have prepared you or contributed to your interest in pursuing graduate degree)

- Supporting application materials include:

- References, Transcripts, GRE's

# Demonstrating Merit Review Criteria

## ■ Intellectual Merit Criterion

- Your academic record
- Proposed plan of research
- Previous research experience
- Choice of and relevance of references
- GRE's scores
- Appropriateness of proposed graduate institution

## ■ Broader Impacts Criterion

- Characteristics of your background, including:
  - Personal, professional and educational experiences

# Formulating Research Plan

- Reflect upon what captures your attention



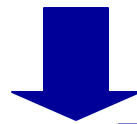
- Analyze and develop an *original* research question



- Use your understanding of research principles and approaches to address this question

# Create a "Proposal Review Process"

Discuss plan with mentors and peers  
..... Revise your Plan .....



**Finalize Your Proposed Plan  
of Research**

# Program Cycle

- Program Announcement: [www.nsf.gov/grfp](http://www.nsf.gov/grfp)
- Application: Online application available now at [www.fastlane.nsf.gov](http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov)
- Deadlines: November 1-13, 2006 (varies by field)
- Awards: NSF announces awards March 2007

# Evaluation Process

- Applications are evaluated by field specific panels
  - Panelists are academic and research experts in the panel field
  - Panelists are experts in the broad field, but may not be experts in your specific research specialty
- Each application is evaluated by the panelists using NSF Merit Review Criteria
- Panels make recommendations to NSF regarding *awardees* and *honorable mentions*

# Rewards

“The GRF has provided me with a tremendous amount of **independence** not only in terms of the college or university I attend, but the advisor I work with, and my dissertation topic, as I don't have to rely on anyone else's funding but my own. ”

“**Prestige** .. is a key advantage of the GRF, particularly with respect to future job prospects.”

# Additional Information

## NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

### Program Announcement, Online Application and Deadlines

- Website: [www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp](http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp)

### Question about Application Process

- Telephone: 866-NSF-GRFP (673-4737)
- Email: [help@nsfgradfellows.org](mailto:help@nsfgradfellows.org)



# OPPORTUNITIES for GRADUATE RESEARCH SUPPORT

SPONSOR	NAME	WEBSITE
National Science Foundation	Graduate Research Fellowship Program	<a href="http://www.nsf.gov/grfp">www.nsf.gov/grfp</a>
National Science Foundation	LSAMP Bridge to the Doctorate	<a href="http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5477">http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5477</a>
National Science Foundation	Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program	<a href="http://www.igert.org">www.igert.org</a>
Department of Defense	National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship (NDSEG)	<a href="http://www.asee.org/ndseg">www.asee.org/ndseg</a>
Department of Defense	Science, Mathematics, and Research For Transformation Program (SMART)	<a href="http://www.asee.org/smart">www.asee.org/smart</a>