National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship

Contact Information:  
Office of National Scholarship Advisement

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Description

The NSF Graduate Fellow receives an annual stipend for 3 years of graduate research and study in the sciences, mathematics, psychology, engineering, and chemistry. NSF Fellows are expected to contribute significantly to research, teaching, and industrial applications in science, mathematics, and engineering.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the NSF GRFP, you must:

- Be a US citizen, US national, or permanent resident alien
- Be in a research-focused Master's or Ph.D. program in an NSF-supported field
- Be attending an accredited United States educational institution
- Have completed no more than twelve months of full-time graduate study by August of the year for which you are applying - i.e., you can apply at the beginning of your second year of graduate study (or the equivalent.)

Requirements

Complete applications include:

- Information that must be submitted electronically using NSF’s FastLane Graduate Research Fellowship Program application module
- Official academic transcripts submitted in hard copy to the GRF Operations Center
- Three letters of reference submitted electronically using NSF's FastLane Reference Letter submission
How to Apply

Login to the NSF Fastlane site and register.

Contact ONSA as soon as you decide to apply to get tips and pointers (we do not actually endorse your application).

Request assistance from your faculty advisor here at UMass who can help you with guidance on the technical aspects of your application.

Send a draft of your application to the professors who will be writing your letters; they can also provide you with helpful feedback.

Be sure to emphasize the "broader impact" of your research because this figures heavily into how your application is evaluated.

The review panels reading your application will most likely not have detailed technical knowledge of your field so make sure that your essay is understandable by a scientist but not an expert.