

Student Name: _____
 Graduation Year: _____
 Major 1: _____
 Major 2: _____
 Major 3: _____
 Minor(s): _____
 Academic Advisor(s): _____

Student ID: _____

Hometown: _____
 Concentration: _____
 Concentration: _____
 Concentration: _____

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

Award Details:

Emphasis:

Academic

Research

Language

Experiential

International

Brief Description:

The Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) is a National Science Foundation-wide program that provides Fellowships to individuals selected early in their graduate careers based on their demonstrated potential for significant research achievements in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) or in STEM education. Three years of support is provided by the program for graduate study that leads to a research-based masters or doctoral degree in STEM or STEM education.

The program goals are:

1. To select, recognize, and financially support, early in their careers, individuals with the demonstrated potential to be high achieving scientists and engineers, and
2. To broaden participation in science and engineering of underrepresented groups, including women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and veterans. NSF especially encourages these groups to apply.

GRFP is a critical program in NSF's overall strategy to develop the globally-engaged workforce necessary to ensure the Nation's leadership in advancing science and engineering research and innovation. The ranks of NSF Fellows include numerous individuals who have made transformative breakthrough discoveries in science and engineering, become leaders in their chosen careers, and been honored as Nobel laureates.

Fellowship funding is for a maximum of three years of financial support (in 12-month allocations, starting in the summer or fall) usable over a five-year fellowship period.

The institution receives up to a \$46,000 award per Fellow who uses the fellowship support in a fellowship year. The Graduate Research Fellowship stipend is currently \$34,000 for a 12-month tenure period, prorated in whole month increments of \$2,833. The cost-of-education allowance to the institution is currently \$12,000 per year of fellowship support.

Can The Award Be Deferred? No, but military and medical deferrals are accepted

Can The Award Be Renewed? No

Eligibility:

Applicant Education Level: Senior undergraduate, first and second year graduate students

Open to (Non-US) International Students: No

Required to Demonstrate Financial Need: No

Specified Majors: STEM or STEM education

Minimum GPA: None

Candidate Profile: Key Characteristics Sought By Review Committee

Reviewers evaluating applications submitted to the Graduate Research Fellowship Program may consider the following with respect to the intellectual Merit Criterion: the potential of the applicant to advance knowledge based on a holistic analysis of the complete application, including the Personal, Relevant Background, and Future Goals Statement, Graduate Research Plan Statement, strength of the academic record, description of previous research experience or publication/presentations, and references.

Holistic review is a flexible, individualized way of assessing an applicant's interests and competencies by which balanced consideration is given to experiences, attributes, and academic achievements and, when considered in combination, how the applicant has demonstrated potential for significant research achievements in STEM and STEM education. Reviewers may consider the following with respect to the Broader Impacts Criterion: the potential of the applicant to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes based on a holistic analysis of the complete application, including by personal experiences, professional experiences, educational experiences, and future plans.

Selection:

Number of Candidates Awarded Each Year:	2000
Interview:	Not Required
Approximate Date Selected Candidates Are Notified:	Early April

Contact Information:

Name:	Dr. Gisele Muller-Parker
Position:	Program Director
Street Address:	4201 Wilson Blvd
City / State / Zip:	Arlington, VA, 22230
General E-mail:	Info@NFSGRFP.org
Phone:	866-673-4737

Information Sessions:

Webinars for Candidates:	No
Webinars for Advisors:	No

Website:

Official Website:	https://www.nsfgrfp.org/
Application Components:	https://www.nsfgrfp.org/applicants/application_components

Application:

Date Application is Available: August

Application Due Date: Varies by field of study, in October at 5P.M. local time*

Application Must Be Submitted By: Candidate

Institutional Endorsement Required: No

Institutional Cover Letter Required: No

***October 23, 2017 (Monday)**

Geosciences
Life Sciences

October 24, 2017 (Tuesday)

Computer and Information Science and Engineering
Engineering
Materials Research

October 26, 2017 (Thursday)

Psychology
Social Sciences
STEM Education and Learning

October 27, 2017 (Friday)

Chemistry
Mathematical Sciences
Physics and Astronomy

November 2, 2017 (Thursday)

Reference letter deadline

Application Process

<i>The application includes the following</i>		Deadline	Date Completed
Personal, Relevant, Background and Future Goals Statement ¹			_____
Graduate Research Plan Statement ²			_____
Three to Five Letters of Recommendation ³		11/2/2017	_____
Name	Position	Date Notified	Date Completed
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Academic Transcripts ⁴			_____

1. PROMPT: Please outline your educational and professional development plans and career goals. How do you envision graduate school preparing you for a career that allows you to contribute to expanding scientific understanding as well as broadly benefit society?
Page limit - 3 pages

Describe your personal, educational and/or professional experiences that motivate your decision to pursue advanced study in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM). Include specific examples of any research and/or professional activities in which you have participated. Present a concise description of the activities, highlight the results and discuss how these activities have prepared you to seek a graduate degree. Specify your role in the activity including the extent to which you worked independently and/or as part of a team. Describe the contributions of your activity to advancing knowledge in STEM fields as well as the potential for broader societal impacts (See Solicitation, Section VI, for more information about Broader Impacts).

NSF Fellows are expected to become globally engaged knowledge experts and leaders who can contribute significantly to research, education, and innovations in science and engineering. The purpose of this statement is to demonstrate your potential to satisfy this requirement. Your ideas and examples do not have to be confined necessarily to the discipline that you have chosen to pursue.

Important questions to ask yourself before writing the statement:

1. Why are you fascinated by your research area?
2. What examples of leadership skills and unique characteristics do you bring to your chosen field?
3. What personal and individual strengths do you have that make you a qualified applicant?
4. How will receiving the fellowship contribute to your career goals?
5. What are all of your applicable experiences?
6. For each experience, what were the key questions, methodology, findings, and conclusions?
7. Did you work in a team and/or independently?
8. How did you assist in the analysis of results?
9. How did your activities address the Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts criteria?

2. Present an original research topic that you would like to pursue in graduate school. Describe the research idea, your general approach, as well as any unique resources that may be needed for accomplishing the research goal (i.e., access to national facilities or collections, collaborations, overseas work, etc.) You may choose to include important literature citations. Address the potential of the research to advance knowledge and understanding within science as well as the potential for broader impacts on society. The research discussed must be in a field listed in the Solicitation (Section X, Fields of Study).

Important questions to ask yourself before writing the statement:

1. What issues in the scientific community are you most passionate about?
2. Do you possess the technical knowledge and skills necessary for conducting this work, or will you have sufficient mentoring and training to complete the study?
3. Is this plan feasible for the allotted time and institutional resources?
4. How will your research contribute to the "big picture" outside the academic context?
5. How can you draft a plan using the guidelines presented in the essay instructions?
6. How does your proposed research address the Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts criteria?

3. Applicants are required to submit three reference letters. There are five slots available for applicants to list reference writers. Applicants are strongly encouraged to utilize all available slots. The reference letter should provide details explaining the nature of the relationship to the applicant, comments on the applicant's potential and prior research experiences, statements about the applicant's academic potential and prior research experiences, statements about the applicant's proposed research, and any other information to enable review panels to evaluate the application according to the NSF Merit Review Criteria of Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts.

Applicants can improve their chances of obtaining strong reference letters by doing the following:

1. Choose your references carefully; choose people that can speak to your abilities and potential, rather than someone with a prominent title.
2. Provide referees sufficient time to write a strong letter.
3. Discuss the application and share your essays with them.
4. Inform them that reference letters should reflect both your "intellectual merit" and "broader impacts."
5. Track submission of letters using your status page in the FastLane application module - if necessary, remind reference writers about deadline. No late letters will be accepted under any circumstances.
6. Have backup references in case one of your primary reference writers cannot submit their letter.

4. Your academic transcript is the evaluators' opportunity to view the courses you have taken, allowing them to determine your level of preparation for your proposed plan of research. Thus, it is a significant component of a complete application. An academic transcript is required for every institution you have listed in the application module. If your transcript contains your academic records for more than one degree, you need to only upload your transcript once. You can select a checkbox on the application that the transcript information for an institution is contained on the uploaded transcript for another entry on the Education and Work Experience section of the application.