

National Science Foundation

***Graduate Research Fellowship Program
2009***

Overview

- Psychology applications due: November 5, 2009
- 1,654 Fellowships will be awarded
- \$30,000 stipend/year for 3 years (usable over 5 years)
- \$10,500 for tuition and institutional allowance
- \$1,000 one-time funding for international travel

Eligibility

- Applicants must be United States citizens or nationals, or permanent resident aliens of the United States.
- Must be prepared to begin graduate study by summer or fall 2010.
- People typically apply:
 - During the senior year of college
 - After college but prior to graduate school
 - During first year of graduate school
 - Prior to completing first term of second year of graduate school

Eligibility

- Applicants must have completed no more than 12 months of full-time graduate study or its equivalent as of August 1, 2009.
 - No more than 24 semester hours or 36 quarter hours for part-time students.
 - Credit limit applied to part-time graduate students; there is no credit limit for full-time students, only the 12 month limit.
 - There are exceptions for interrupted graduate study of 2 years or more or for a significant change of field.

Eligibility

- Eligible fields of study:
 - Fellowships are for graduate study leading to research-based master's or doctoral degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
 - Clinical and counseling psychology are not supported in this program.
 - Categories that are always ineligible: Clinical, counseling, business or management fields, social work, education, or history.

Application

Preparation

- Applications must be submitted electronically via NSF FastLane.
- Applications have three essays (max. length 2 pgs. each):
 - Personal statement
 - Previous research experience
 - Proposed graduate study
- Supplemental materials:
 - Official academic transcripts
 - GRE test scores
 - Three letters of reference

NSF Application Review Process

- Applications reviewed by panels of disciplinary and interdisciplinary scientists, assigned to panels based on the chosen field of study and the discipline represented.
- Review criteria:
 - What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?
 - What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?

Intellectual Merit

- How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?
- How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? (If appropriate, the reviewer will comment on the quality of prior work.)
- To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
- How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity?
- Is there sufficient access to resources?

Broader Impact

- How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning?
- How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)?
- To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships?
- Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding?
- What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

Intellectual Merit

Evaluation Criteria

- The strength of the academic record
- The proposed plan of research
- The description of previous research experience
- References
- GRE General and Subject Tests scores
- Appropriateness of choice of institution relative to the proposed plan for graduate education and research.

Broader Impact Evaluation Criteria

- Characteristics of applicant's background:
 - Personal
 - Professional
 - Educational Experiences
- These elements should indicate applicant's potential to fulfill the broader impacts criterion.