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.