NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Liljana Babinkostova
Email: liljanababinkostova@boisestate.edu

Info: http://www.nsf.gov/
Application: https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/
Portals for Federally-Sponsored Opportunities in STEM

stemundergrads.science.gov

STEM Undergrads.science.gov
Your Gateway to Federal Opportunities for Undergraduate Students

STEMGradStudents.science.gov

Narrow Results:
- Undergraduate Program Type
- Undergraduate Level Eligibility
- STEM Discipline Focus
- Institutional Location
- Federal Agency Sponsor
- Geographic Region

Narrow Results:
- Graduate Program Type
- Graduate Level Eligibility
- STEM Discipline Focus
- Institutional Location
- Federal Agency Sponsor
- Geographic Region
Graduate Research Fellowship Program

Five Year Award – $138,000
• Three years of support
  $34,000 Stipend per year
  $12,000 Educational allowance to institution

• Professional Development
  GROW: International Research
  GRIP: Federal Internships

• Supercomputer access: XSEDE

• Career Life Balance (family leave)
GRFP Eligibility

- Seniors or baccalaureates with no graduate study yet

- First-year graduate students

- Second-year graduate students ($\leq$ 12 months of graduate study by August)

- >12 months graduate study, with interruption in graduate study of 2+ years (can have MS Degree)
How Often Can You Apply?

Seniors or baccalaureates with no graduate study yet

First-year graduate students

Second-year graduate students
(≤ 12 months of graduate study by August)

NO RESTRICTION

Only ONE time in graduate school, in 1st or 2nd year
GRFP Timeline

- NSF releases GRFP application
- GRFP applications due
- NSF processes and reviews applications
- NSF notifies applicants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- Graduate school applications start to be due
- Graduate schools start to notify applicants
- Graduate schools want yes/no answers
GRFP Complete Application

Graduate Research Fellowship Program

Welcome to the FastLane Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP).

GRFP Award Recipients
- Award Offers and Honorable Mentions List

Applicant Deadlines
- Applications Must Be Received by 5:00 pm Local Time of applicant’s mailing address
- October 23, 2017 (Monday): Geosciences
- October 23, 2017 (Monday): Life Sciences
- October 24, 2017 (Tuesday): Computer and Information Science and Engineering
- October 24, 2017 (Tuesday): Engineering
- October 24, 2017 (Tuesday): Materials Research
- October 26, 2017 (Thursday): Psychology
- October 26, 2017 (Thursday): Social Sciences
- October 26, 2017 (Thursday): STEM Education and Learning

https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov
GRFP Complete Application

FastLane Graduate Research Fellowship Program

Prepare New Application Package

* Required Field

REGISTER USER

Privacy Act Notice
An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, an information collection unless it displays a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The OMB control number for this collection is 3145-0023. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 12 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate and any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to:

Suzanne H. Plimpton
Reports Clearance Officer
Division of Administrative Services
National Science Foundation
Arlington, VA 22230

Applicant Information

*First Name:
*Last Name:
Middle Name:
Suffix (Jr, Sr, etc):

E-mails are the primary source of communication used by the GRFP Administrators. You must use a current e-mail address and update the e-mail address if it changes.

*E-mail Address:

Your Username and Password will be used to identify you for future access to your Applicant Package and to protect it from unauthorized access. Your username must be between 6 and 12 characters. It is recommended that you use your first name initial and last name. Please use the Reset Questions/Update My Profile link to create answers to the secret questions to retrieve your username and/or reset password.

*Username:
GRFP Complete Application

- Personal information, education & work experience, proposed field of study, academic honors, publications
- Personal, Relevant Background, & Future Goals Statement (3 pages)
- Graduate Research Statement (2 pages)
- Transcripts (uploaded electronically by the applicant)
- Three letters of reference
Experiences, personal and professional, that contributed to your motivation to pursue a STEM career and your preparation for it.

- How have your experiences shaped your goals?
- What use have you made of the resources available to you?
- What have you learned?
- Why you will succeed at graduate research?
- How do you know this is what you want to do?

1.5 pages: Previous research experience (relevant background)
1.0 page: Intellectual merit and broader impacts (personal statement)
0.5 page: Current research and future goals
Previous research experiences (include all).

• What was/were the project(s)?
• Where was the research done?
• Why was/were the project(s) worth doing?
• What was your part of the project(s)?
• How did your part of the project(s) fit into the whole?
• What have you learned?
• Any advanced course work?
GRFP Complete Application

Experiences, personal and professional, that contributed to your motivation to pursue a STEM career and your preparation for it.

Previous research experiences

Career aspirations and goals

Address both Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts!
Preparing a GRFP Application

Research Statement (2 pages)

Describe your Research Plan

• Motivate research question(s)
• Demonstrate understanding of the research question(s) and methods for addressing them
• Communicate original research idea and approach

Be sure to include sections explaining both Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts!
Preparring a GRFP Application

Research Statement (2 pages)
• Your ideas on how to fill a 'knowledge gap' from your field of study
• Clearest and most concrete part of your application
• Easy to read
• Justification that the proposed research is feasible to accomplish
• Link to your Personal, Relevant Background, and Future Goals Statement

- Introduction
- Research Objectives
- Hypotheses/Conjectures
- Preliminary Results (if you have any from previous research)
- Experimental, Computational or Other Approach
- Intellectual Merit and Broader Impact (separate paragraphs)
- References
National Science Board-approved review criteria:

- Intellectual Merit
- Broader Impacts
Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts

- How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge within its own field or across different fields?

AND

- How well does the proposed activity benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes?

* Separate sections for Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts
• Demonstrated intellectual ability for scholarly scientific study, such as the ability to:
  o Interpret and communicate research
  o Work as a member of a team as well as independently
  o Plan and conduct research

• The proposed research is scientifically sound, reflects knowledge of existing work and makes a contribution to the field.
Broader Impacts

Societal benefits include, but not limited to:

- Impact of project or individual student on society
- Increased participation of underrepresented groups, women/minority, students with disabilities, veterans
- Improved STEM education in schools
- Impact on society: Increased public scientific literacy; increased public engagement with science and technology
- Community outreach: science clubs, newspaper, etc
- Increased partnerships between academia, industry and others
• How well does the activity advance discovery while promoting teaching, training, and learning?

• How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups?

• To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for education?

• Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding?

• What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?
Assessment

Intellectual Merit
- Academic performance; grades, curricula, awards, etc.
- Graduate Research plan
- Research/professional experience
- Reference letters

Broader Impacts
- Prior accomplishments, future plans
- Individual experiences
- Potential benefit(s) to society
- Community outreach
- Reference letters
Reference Letters

• Three reference letters
• You can upload contact information of up to 5 letter writers
• Select reference letter writers carefully

Reference letter writers should keep in mind:
• Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts
• Deadline: 1st Thursday in Nov (5 p.m. ET)
Application Review Process

• Applications are reviewed by panels of disciplinary and interdisciplinary scientists and engineers.

• Applications are assigned to panels based on the chosen Primary Field of Study.

• Select the *Primary Field of Study* that is most closely aligned with the proposed graduate program of study and proposed research plan.

• Holistic evaluation.
**Application Review Process**

**Level 1**: Baccalaureate degree in progress or completed with no post-baccalaureate graduate study yet.

**Level 2**: Graduate students in the beginning of their first year of graduate school.

**Level 3**: Graduate students who have completed no more than the equivalent of 12 months of full-time graduate study, and who may have completed a master’s degree in a joint baccalaureate-master’s degree program.

**Level 4**: Applicants who have completed more than twelve months of graduate study may be considered eligible if they have had an interruption in graduate study of at least two consecutive years directly prior to November 2017.
## Holistic Review in GRFP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Component</th>
<th>Intellectual Merit</th>
<th>Broader Impacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Statement</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Statement</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcripts</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference Letters</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Overall Rating              | E/V/G/F/P          | E/V/G/F/P       |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating Key</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An applicant receives **Ratings** and **Comments** for both Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts. Notifications are sent in early April.
**Holistic Review in GRFP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality Group (QG)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Raw Score Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>QG 1 - Highly Meritorious.</strong></td>
<td>Recommended for a fellowship award</td>
<td>Excellent (E)</td>
<td>50-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>QG 2 - Meritorious.</strong></td>
<td>Recommended for a fellowship award or for Honorable Mention. Applicants from QG2 who do not receive awards receive Honorable Mention.</td>
<td>Very Good (V)</td>
<td>39-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>QG 3 - Not Recommended</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Good (G), Fair (F), Poor (P)</td>
<td>29-20, 19-10, 9-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 1. Relationships among Quality Groups, Ratings and Raw Scores*
Before You Start Your Application

• What's special, unique, distinctive, and/or impressive about you or your life story?

• What details of your life might help the reviewers better understand you or set you apart from other applicants?

• When did you become interested in this field, and what have you learned about it (and about yourself) that has convinced you that you are well suited to this field?

• How have you learned about this field - through your classes, readings, seminars, work or other experiences, or conversations with people already in the field?

• What reasons can you give for reviewers to be interested in you?
What the reviewers will need to learn ABOUT YOU

• Your potential as a leader and collaborative team member.
• Your academic achievements, extraordinary efforts to enhance your knowledge and skills beyond the classroom (relates to intellectual merit).
• Your ability to think creatively, test new ideas, find solutions and move past barriers or failure (relates to intellectual merit).
• Your communication skills, initiative, and motivation.
• Your long term academic and career goals and ways that you intend to contribute to your future profession (relates to broader impacts).
• Your contributions to society - community engagement, engagement in diversity efforts, public outreach or education, etc. (relates to broader impacts).
Advice

• Read Solicitation, and read it again.
• Make sure you list all of your honors, research experiences, presentations, and any publication(s).
• Give careful attention to Merit Review criteria and Broader Impacts.
• Select and confirm your reference letter writers early. You might seek reference letters from your undergraduate advisor, your graduate advisor or mentor, a supervisor from a K-12 outreach program, or an employer who can address your professional skills.
• Share your application materials with your reference writers.
• Prior research experience, internships, strong academic record and community activities are important components for a competitive GRFP application. Therefore, as a pre-senior you should get involved in research and community outreach.

• Do not wait until the last minute to submit your application.
Cafe Information

Welcome to the Grad Cafe.

New There's a new set of users blogging about their admissions journey. Check it out.

We've got an active graduate school discussion forum. Check them and see if you can answer any questions. Or if you have a question yourself, feel free to ask! And join in the discussion.

Search for results and give it a try.

There are 438777 grad school admission results in the database.

Contact: help at thegradcafe.com.
GRFP Resources

- NSF GRFP Website
  www.nsf.gov/grfp
- GRFP Website
  www.nsfgrfp.org
- FastLane
  www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp
- GradCafe
  https://thegradcafe.com/
- Alex Lang’s Website - NSF Fellowship
  http://www.alexhunterlang.com/nsf-fellowship
- Mallory Ladd’s Website - Think Like a Postdoc
  http://www.malloryladd.com/nsf-grfp-advice.htm
- University of Missouri - GRFP Essay Insights
  http://grfpessayinsights.missouri.edu/index.php
Good Luck!

Dr. Liljana Babinkostova
Email: liljanababinkostova@boisestate.edu