# www.nsf.gov



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QUICK LINKS

**National Science Foundation**
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

SEARCH 🔍

HOME | FUNDING | AWARDS | DISCOVERIES | NEWS | PUBLICATIONS | STATISTICS | ABOUT NSF | FASTLANE

Globular C
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FULL

- REU

- GRFP

- IGERT

- Specialized Information for Graduate Students

- Specialized Information for Undergraduate Students

Advancing the Sciences | Funding & Supporting | Inspiring & Edu

**VIMS Researchers Unravel Life Cycle of Blue-crab Parasite**
October 4, 2012

# www.nsf.gov

NSF Information Related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Proposal and Award Policies and
Procedures Guide
Prepare a Proposal
Upcoming Due Dates
Submit Proposal to FastLane

## EVENT CALENDAR

**15 OCT** — Center for Nondestructive Evaluation IAB Meeting
PARTNERSHIP MEETING

**15 OCT** — I/UCRC: Center for Laser and Plasma for Advanced Manufacturing (LPAM) IAB Meeting
PARTNERSHIP MEETING

**15 OCT** — I/UCRC: Center for Tire Research IAB Meeting
PARTNERSHIP MEETING

**16 OCT** — Science: Becoming the Messenger
WORKSHOP

**17 OCT** — Fall 2012: ENG Advisory Committee Meeting
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**VIEW ALL EVENTS**

# Customizable NSF email service

FUNDING   AWARDS   DISCOVERIES   NEWS   PUBLICATIONS   STATISTICS   ABOUT NSF   FASTLANE

Research.gov | USA.gov | National Science Board | Recovery Act | Budget and Performance | Annual Financial Report
Web Policies and Important Links | Privacy | FOIA | NO FEAR Act | Inspector General | Webmaster Contact | Site Map

# Graduate Research Fellowship Program

nsf.gov/grfp

www.nsfgrfp.org

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# GRFP Goals



- To increase the Nation's human capacity in science and engineering by providing fellowships for **early-career** graduate students who pursue research-based master's and doctoral degrees in NSF-supported disciplines

- To support the development of a **diverse** and globally engaged US science and engineering workforce

# GRFP Key Elements

**Five Year Award – $126,000**

- Three years of support
  - ◦ $30,000 Stipend per year
  - ◦ $12,000 Educational allowance to institution per year
- International research opportunity: GROW
- Internship in companies: EIFP
- Supercomputer access

# GRFP Unique Features

- **Flexible:** choice of project, advisor & program
- **Unrestrictive:** No service requirement
- **Portable:** Any accredited U.S. institution

  ◦ MS ⟶ PhD

- **2010 - 2013:** 2,000 new Fellowships each year
  ◦ ~17% success rate

# GRFP Solicitation

- Contains the following information:
  - Program Description
  - Award Information
  - **Eligibility requirements**
  - **Application preparation and submission instructions**
  - **Application Review Information Criteria**
  - Award Administration Information

# GRFP Eligibility: self-certified

- U.S. citizens and permanent residents
- Early-career graduate students
- Pursuing research-based MS and PhD
- NSF-supported fields
- Enrolled in accredited institution in US

Academic Levels
- **1:** Seniors/baccalaureates; no graduate study
- **2:** First-year graduate students
- **3:** Second-year grad students
  - ≤ 12 months of graduate study by August
- **4:** >12 months graduate study
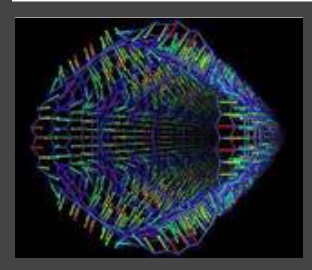  - Interruption in graduate study of 2+ years
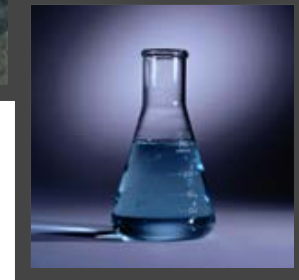
Academic levels evaluated together
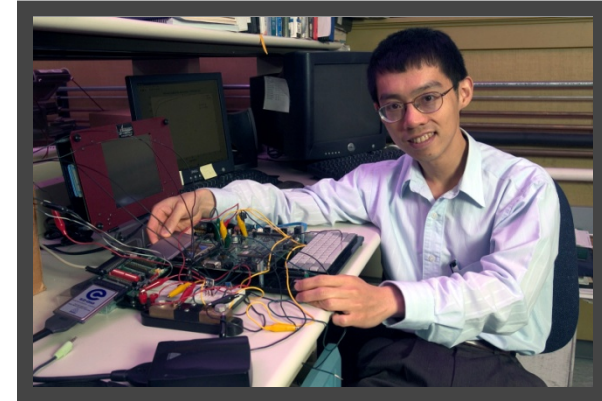
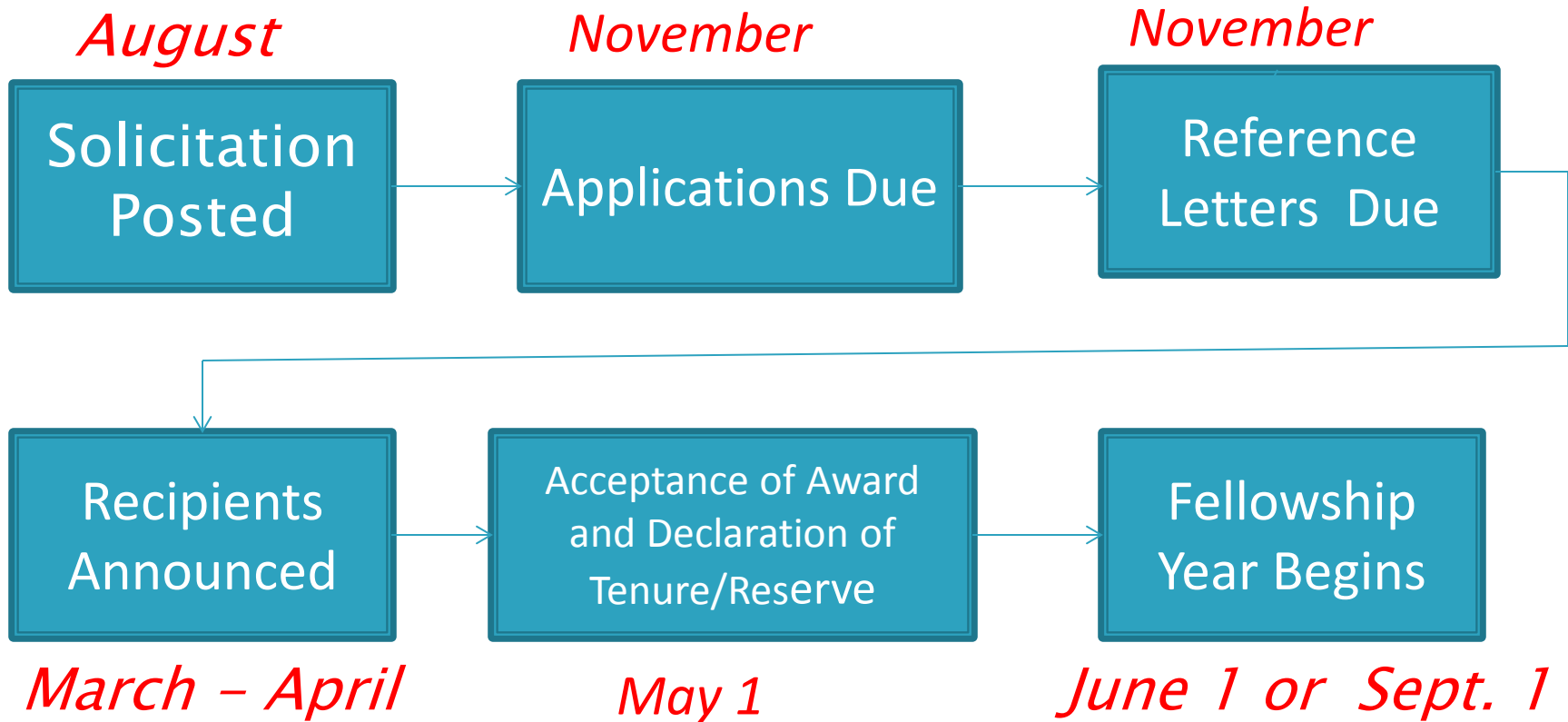# NSF-Supported Fields of Study

- Chemistry
- Computer & Information Science/Engineering
- Engineering
- Geosciences
- Life Sciences
- Materials Research
- Mathematical Sciences
- Physics and Astronomy
- Psychology
- Social Sciences
- STEM Education

# GRFP Application Timeline

*August*

*November*

*November*

| Solicitation Posted | → | Applications Due | → | Reference Letters Due |
|---|---|---|---|---|

| Recipients Announced | → | Acceptance of Award and Declaration of Tenure/Reserve | → | Fellowship Year Begins |
|---|---|---|---|---|

*March – April*

*May 1*

*June 1 or Sept. 1*

# GRFP Complete Application

**NSF FastLane**

- Personal statement (2 pages)
- Previous research experience (2 pages)
- Proposed plan of research (2 pages)
- <u>Three</u> letters of reference
- Transcripts (uploaded electronically)

# NSF Review Criteria

**National Science Board**
GOVERNING BOARD OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION & POLICY ADVISORS
TO THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS

▸ Two National Science Board-approved criteria

◦ Intellectual Merit
◦ Broader Impacts

# Intellectual Merit and Broader impacts

- **Intellectual Merit:** The Intellectual Merit criterion encompasses the potential to advance knowledge; and

- **Broader Impacts:** The Broader Impacts criterion encompasses the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

# Elements to be considered in the review

1. What is the potential for the proposed activity to:

   a. Advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields (Intellectual Merit); and

   b. Benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes (Broader Impacts)?

2. To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?

3. Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?

4. How well qualified is the individual, team, or organization to conduct the proposed activities?

5. Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home organization or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?

# Intellectual Merit Assessment

- Academic performance; grades, curricula, etc.
- Research plan
- References
- Research/professional experience

# Broader Impacts Assessment

- Prior accomplishments
- Future plans
- Individual experiences
- Potential benefit to society

# GRFP Advice for Applicants

- Start early
- Read Solicitation, and read it again
- Read NSF GRFP websites

- Select and confirm reference letter writers
- Pay attention to merit review criteria
- Share your application materials and the merit review criteria with reference writers

# Reference writers

- Select your reference writers carefully, as they will provide important **information** about your character, and potential as a leader, researcher, and educator

- You may request up to 5 references

- It is **your responsibility** to ensure three letters of references are submitted <u>by the published deadline</u> in order for your application to be complete and reviewed

# GRFP Reviews

- Panels of faculty, experts in fields of study

- Each application has multiple reviewers

- Merit of each application is assessed based on the potential/promise of the **individual applicant**

- **Emphasis on holistic** review of the application to determine if the applicant has demonstrated **potential** for significant achievements in science and engineering research

# GRFP Resources

- NSF GRFP Website (nsf.gov/grfp)
  - Solicitation and links
- NSF GRFP FastLane Website (fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp)
  - Application, guides, announcements
- GRFP Website (nsfgrfp.org)
- Current & former fellows
- Phone & e-mail
  - 866-NSF-GRFP (673-4737)
  - info@nsfgrfp.org