Graduate Research Fellowship Program
(GRFP)

Directorate for STEM Education (EDU)

Division of Graduate Education (DGE)

www.nsf.gov/grfp

info@nsfgrfp.org

www.nsfgrfp.org

ABOUT NSF GRFP

SINCE 1952

70,000+
GRFPS AWARDED

40+ FELLOWS
HAVE BECOME NOBEL LAUREATES

FELLOWS FROM/IN EVERY STATE

450+ FELLOWS
HAVE BECOME MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

$37,000
ANNUAL STIPEND

$16,000
COST OF EDUCATION ALLOWANCE

5-YEAR
FELLOWSHIP PERIOD

3 YEARS
FINANCIAL SUPPORT

NO POST-GRADUATE STUDY SERVICE REQUIREMENT

~ Per Competition

12,000+
APPLICANTS

2,000+ OFFERS

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED

500+

~ Per Competition

Submit Early

OPEN TO:
Individuals Pursuing RESEARCH-BASED MASTER'S & DOCTORAL DEGREES In Eligible Fields of Study

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DECISION TREE

FORMAT COMPLIANCE CHECK

ELIGIBLE MAJOR FIELDS OF STUDY

- CHEMISTRY
- COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES & ENGINEERING
- ENGINEERING
- GEOSCIENCES
- LIFE SCIENCES
- MATERIALS RESEARCH
- MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES
- PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY
- PSYCHOLOGY
- SOCIAL SCIENCES
- STEM EDUCATION & LEARNING RESEARCH

EACH MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY HAS SUBFIELDS

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NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

Five Year Awards – $159,000*

$53,000 each year for *three* years over five-year period

- $37,000 stipend + $16,000 education allowance paid to institution
- Payment covers all tuition and mandatory fees (no cost to student)

Other NSF Opportunities

- INTERN – non-academic internship program
- FASED Individuals with Disabilities support
- Career-Life Balance Initiative (family leave)

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*Amounts are based on GRFP Solicitation NSF 23-605 and subject to the availability of funds

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GRFP Benefits

- **Fellowship:** Awarded to individual, paid through the attended graduate institution
- **Flexible:** Choice of project, advisor, and graduate program
- **Unrestricted:** No service requirement after completion
- **Portable:** Can be used at any accredited, non-profit, US institution of higher education, with campus in US for research-based master's and doctoral degrees

2010 - 2022: ~2,000-2,100 Fellowships yearly

2022: ~12,600 Applications - ~18% success rate
2021: ~12,600 Applications - ~17% success rate
2020: ~12,800 Applications - ~16% success rate
2019: ~12,200 Applications - ~16% success rate

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ELIGIBILITY

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GRFP Eligibility
NSF Solicitation 23-605

- U.S. citizens, nationals, and permanent residents
- Early-career: undergrad & graduate students
- Pursuing research-based master's and/or doctoral degrees (no professional degrees)
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) or STEM Education
- Full-time enrollment in graduate degree program at accredited, non-profit US institution of higher education
- NO foreign institutions

Level 1: Seniors/Bachelor's degree: no graduate study

Level 2: 1st-year graduate students
- Joint Bachelor's-Master's (completed 3 years)

Level 3: Second-year graduate students
- No more than 1 academic year completed in 1st graduate degree program
- Joint BS/MS holders ONLY: can apply as 1st year doctoral students progressed to PhD directly after completing joint BS/MS degree

Only apply once

Level 4: Returning graduate students
- > 2-year interruption in graduate study
- No doctorates or >1 academic year in graduate program
- NOT ENROLLED in graduate program at application deadline

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Application Package

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GRFP Application

Complete Application Package:

1) Personal Information, Education, Work/Research Experience, Proposed Major Field of Study, Honors, Awards, Publications
2) Personal, Relevant Background and Future Goals Statement (3-page PDF)
3) Graduate Research Statement (2-page PDF)
4) Transcripts (PDFs; mandatory)
5) Letters of reference (may provide up to five names of reference letter writers)
   - Mandatory: 3 reference writer names

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Example GRFP Application Timeline

Mid October

Applications Due

Shortly after application is due

Reference Letters Due

For ***Level 1*** only

Apply to Grad Schools!

Fellowship Offers

March – April

Acceptance of Award and Declaration of Tenure/Reserve

Early May

Fellowship Year Begins

Early September

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Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

Two Statements

1) Personal, Relevant Background & Goals
2) Research Statement

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Personal, Relevant Background & Goals

- Tell your story; demonstrate your potential for STEM research
- Experiences (professional and personal) that contributed to your motivation and preparation for pursuing a STEM career

Career aspirations and future goals

How have your experiences shaped your goals?

Research, industrial, professional experience

- What was the project, what was your role?
- How did you become involved? Where was it done?
- Why was this project worth doing? What have you learned? Any advanced course work?
- What was your contribution to the project and how did it fit into the whole?

Research Statement

Describe your proposed research plan:

- Communicate your research idea and approach
- Explain your research plan and methods
- What do you expect to learn? How will you know if the project is successful?
- What would you do next?

Keep in mind:

- Avoid jargon
- Communicate clearly for non-specialists
- Make your contributions clear

Clearly address NSF's Merit Review Criteria – Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts – under separate headings

1
3

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Review Criteria

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Intellectual Merit

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

Broader Impacts

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

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Comprehensive Review

National Science Board Merit Review Criteria

Review considerations:

- Demonstrated potential for significant achievement in STEM
- Comprehensive, holistic approach to review
- Balanced consideration to all components of the application
    - educational and research record, leadership, outreach, service activities, plans for the future, individual competencies, experiences, and other attributes

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Thank you!

Graduate Research Fellowship Program
(GRFP)

Program Contacts

info@nsfgrfp.org

Applicants: nsfgrfp.org/applicants

GRFP Reference Writers: nsfgrfp.org/reference_writers

GRFP Reviewers: nsfgrfp.org/reviewers

866-NSF-GRFP, 866-673-4737
(toll-free from the US & Canada)

202-331-3542 (international)

NSF Scholarships in STEM Program (S-STEM), 24-511

- enable low-income students with academic ability, talent or potential to pursue successful careers in promising STEM fields
- increase the number of low-income students who graduate with an S-STEM eligible degree and contribute to the American innovation economy with their STEM knowledge
- awards to institutions of higher education (IHEs) not only to fund scholarships, but *also to adapt, implement, and study evidence-based curricular and co-curricular activities that have been shown to be effective supporting recruitment, retention, transfer (if appropriate), student success, academic/career pathways, and graduation in STEM.*

NSF Scholarships in STEM (S-STEM) Program **24-511**

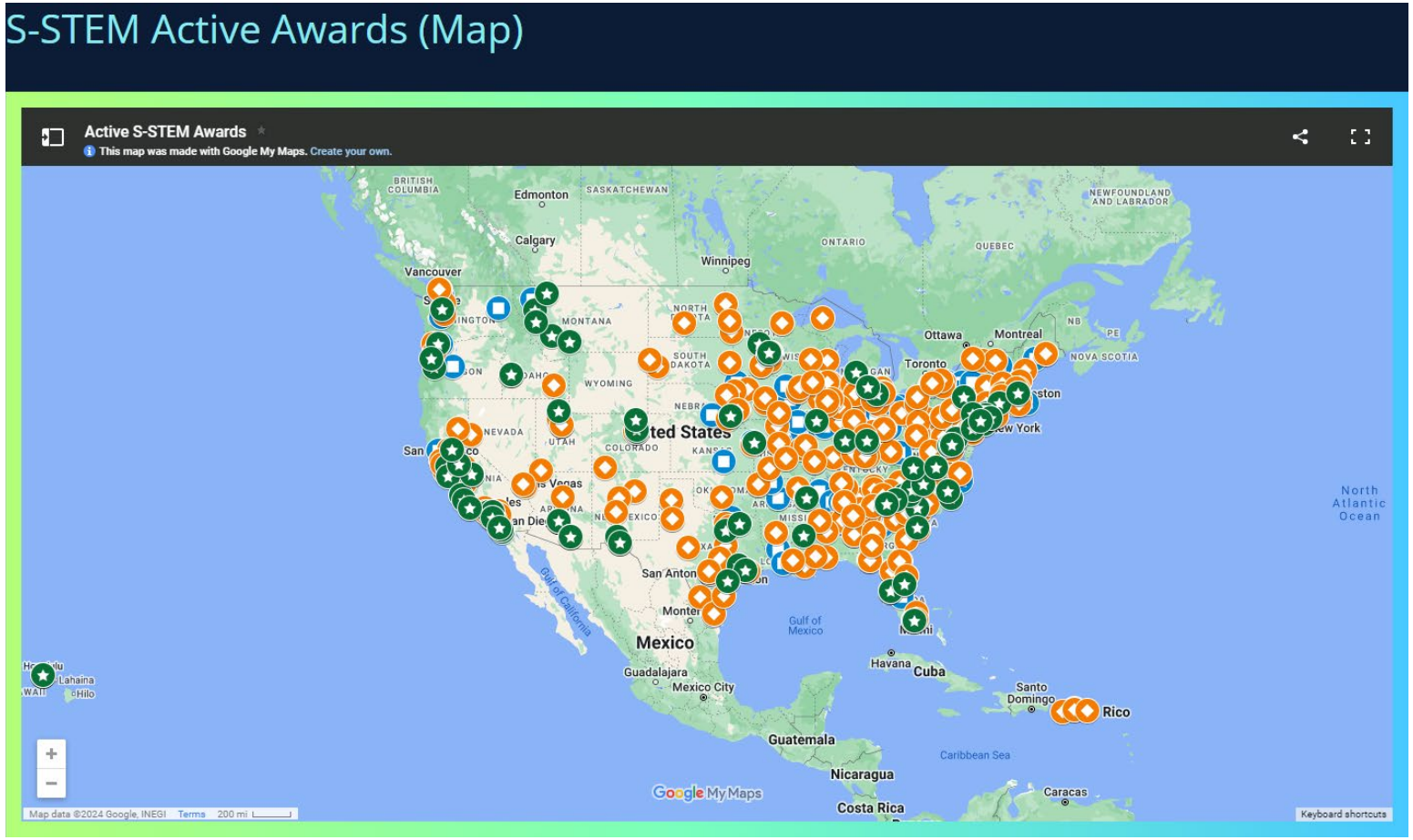
Program Tracks

- Collaborative Planning grant proposals: up to $100,000, up to 1 year
- Capacity building proposals (Track 1): up to $1 million for up to 6 years
- Single institution proposals (Track 2): up to $2 million for up to 6 years
- Inter-Institutional Consortia (Track 3): up to $5 million for up to 6 years
- *60% of total request must be allocated to scholarships in Tracks 1-3*

All proposals should demonstrate:

- Available pool of eligible prospective scholars
- Cohorts and Faculty Mentoring
- Involvement of Financial Aid office

Deadline : March 4, 2025

First Tuesday in March, Annually thereafter

Map of Currently Active S-STEM Awards (sstemrec.aaas.org/awards)