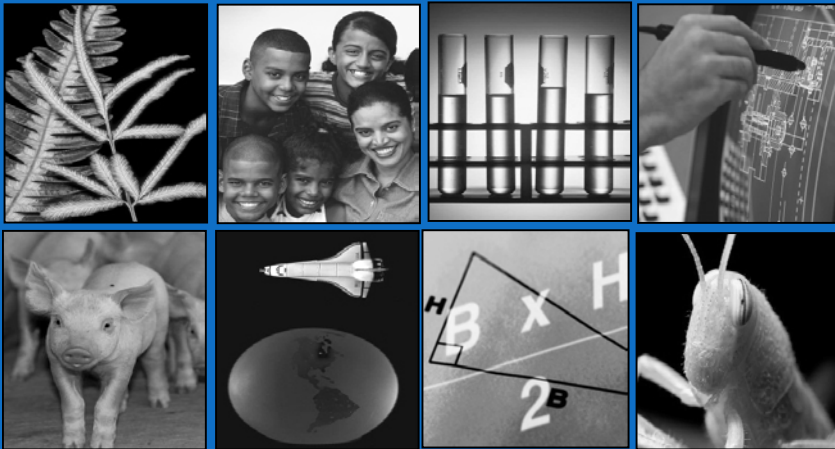




National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program



*Writing the 2
GRFP Statements*

2019-2021 GRFP Competitions

Presentation developed for McNair Scholars
September 18, 2018

Today's Topics

1. Quick GRFP Overview
2. How to Apply
3. The Two Statements:
 1. Personal, Relevant Background & Future Goals
 2. Graduate Research Plan
4. Writing about Intellectual Merit & Broader Impacts
5. What Panel Reviewers Want to Learn About You
6. Q & A





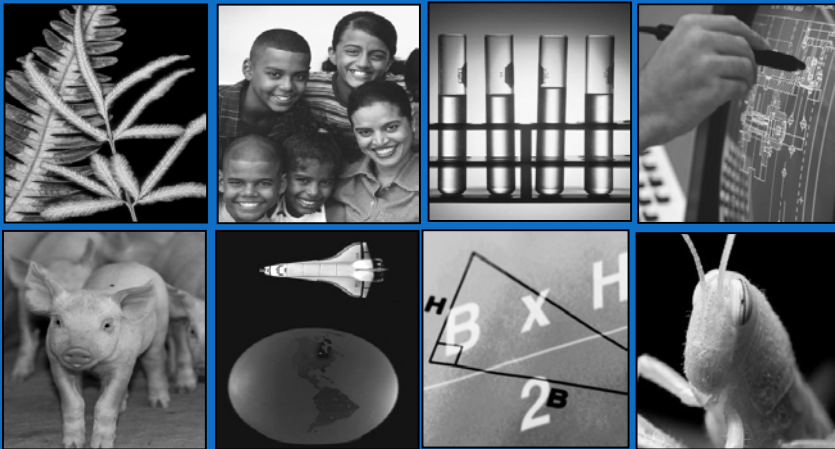
Why
take the time to
Apply for a
Fellowship?

Benefits of Applying

1. Gain proposal writing skills that build across your career
2. Repurpose statements for grad school applications
3. It will set you apart in your application cover letters:
 - ▶ Prospective programs view you as high caliber achiever
 - ▶ Future mentors know you might bring their own \$
 - ▶ Prestigious for faculty to mentor a fellow (you)
4. If awarded...
 - ▶ You can immerse in research rather than outside work for living expenses
 - ▶ Early career boost - strengthens your CV now & in future
 - ▶ Fellowships often lead to other opportunities, such as international travel

GRFP Overview

Part I



*Writing the 2
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Official GRFP Solicitation



This is the **ONLY** source of *official* GRFP information.

FASTLANE GRFP: <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/Login.do>



Fellowship Provisions



- **Provides 3 years of support**
- **Award value: \$138,000***
 - \$34,000 stipend per year *paid to student*
 - \$12,000 “ed allowance” *paid to institution**
- **Other opportunities for active Fellows:**
 - International research & internships
 - Access to super computing resources
 - Supplemental funding for researchers with disabilities

* “Value” may be greater at institutions with a higher tuition.

Understand the GRFP's Program Goals



NSF reviewers seek to fund:

Individuals from **diverse backgrounds** with the **demonstrated potential** to be **high achieving** scientists and engineers in a **globally-engaged** workforce with the vision that these new **leaders** will help the **U.S.** move to the forefront of **research** and **innovation.**





Eligibility

Always verify eligibility in the current NSF GRFP solicitation.



- 1. Citizen or US/Territory/Permanent Resident**
- 2. Degree requirements*:** College senior or BS holder may apply *before* enrolling in a graduate degree program. Grad students may apply once.
- 3. Field of study:** Must enroll in a *research-based* master's or PhD degree in NSF eligible field by next year's fall semester.

*See solicitation for BS/MS students and upcoming eligibility changes.



Eligible Fields of Study*

(You will submit to a specific sub-discipline.)

Engineering (18)

**Computer & Information
Science & Engineering (18)**

Chemistry (10)

Geosciences (25)

Life Sciences (19)

Mathematical Sciences (14)

Materials Research (10)

Physics & Astronomy(10)

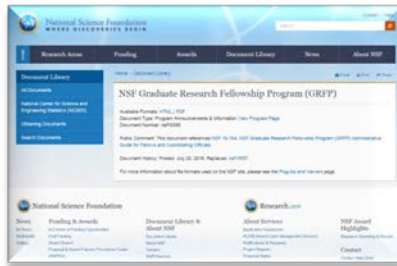
Psychology (15)

Social Sciences (19)

STEM Ed & Learning (5)

(n) = number of sub-discipline fields

- * Interdisciplinary applications are also possible.
- * Biomed/BioEng students should verify eligibility



Bioengineering Eligibility

Bioengineering grad research that:

- aids persons with disabilities or
- diagnoses or treats human disease

is eligible as long as...

You apply *engineering principles* to problems in medicine while **primarily advancing engineering knowledge.**

If this applies to *your* research, submit your GRFP application to the Biomedical Engineering review panel.



Bioengineering Eligibility



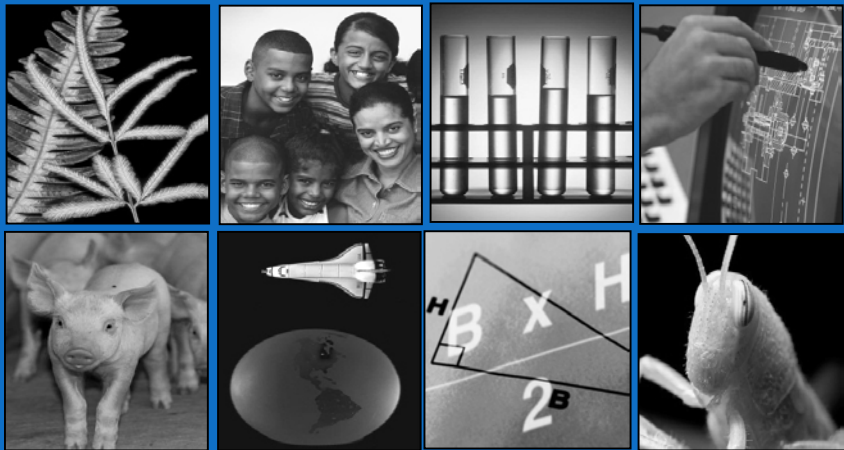
NIH or NSF? Bioengineering Eligibility Check

1. Does your personal statement describe wanting to help find a cure for a friend/family member with a disease or disability? **NIH**
2. Do you envision completing grad courses primarily relating to engineering? **NSF**
3. Is your grad research plan focused on curing diseases or disabilities? **NIH**
4. Are your career goals in the health, medical or related fields? **NIH**
5. Can you identify **HOW** will your research advance *engineering* knowledge? **NSF**

Eligibility Questions? Consult with your mentor or research dean.

How to Apply to the GRFP

Part 2

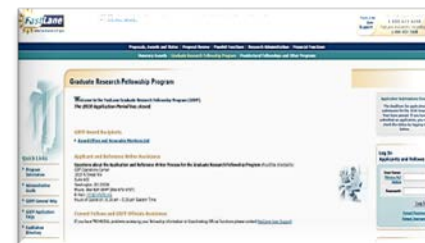


Writing the 2 GRFP Statements

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September 18, 2018

It's Easy to Apply

1. Register in NSF FASTLANE - GRFP
2. Complete *all* sections of online application
3. Write 2 statements (5 pages total)
4. Upload transcripts & statements to the online application
5. Ask 3 faculty mentors or research supervisors to submit reference letters.
6. Submit application before disciplinary deadline



Plan ahead: NSF makes no deadline exceptions!

Fall 2012 example: Mizzou applicant was disqualified for being **16 seconds** late.

Here's where to get started:

FASTLANE GRFP

<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/Login.do>

The screenshot shows the FastLane NSF website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: NSF Home | News | Site Map | FastLane Help | Grants.gov Help | Contact Us. Below this is a banner for the Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) with a welcome message and links to award recipients, application deadlines, and withdrawal deadlines. On the left, a 'Quick Links' sidebar contains links to Program Solicitation, Administrative Guide for Fellows and CO's, GRFP Application FAQs, and Institution Directory. On the right, there are three login sections: 'Begin a Fellowship Application' with a 'Register Here' link, 'Log In Applicants and Fellows' with fields for Username (Preprocess Act Notice) and Password, and 'Log In GRFP Officials' with fields for Last Name, NSF ID, Username (Preprocess Act Notice), and Password. Red arrows highlight the Quick Links sidebar, the main content area, and the login sections.

[Manage My Application](#) | HOME ▶

Prepare Application

▼ INSTRUCTIONS

[Privacy Act](#)

★ Required Field

Instructions for Preparing GRFP Application

- The GRFP application is divided into sections with separate headings. Instructions are provided for completing each section. The required fields are indicated by an asterisk (*). Before you start this application, please read the Application Preparation Instructions in the [Program Solicitation](#).
- You may complete the sections in any order that you choose. Navigate through the application using the links in the title for each section.
- You may save your application information as you go and complete it at a later time. Click "Save and Continue" to save your data and advance to the next step. Caution: Using the buttons on your Internet browser toolbar can result in the loss of data.
- You can submit your application by clicking "Continue" in the SUBMIT APPLICATION section. The system will verify that you have provided the required information to submit your application. Please review these certifications before you start. You will not be able to submit an application without making these certifications. Five certifications must be made before the National Science Foundation can authorize funds for a fellowship award. These concern 1) controlled substances; 2) delinquency on Federal debt; 3) debarment and suspension; 4) eligibility criteria; and 5) originality of the application.
- You can check for application completeness at any time while preparing your application by clicking the "Check Application Completeness" link on the right of this page. **We recommend you save an electronic copy of your completed application for your records**, as the application will not be available to you after decisions are made. Applications are not carried forward for resubmission in later years.

[Continue](#)

A look inside Fastlane GRFP: Click on EVERY teal bar!

[Check Application
Completeness](#)

Click this link at any time while preparing your application to display the readiness of your application for submission.

▶ [PERSONAL INFORMATION](#)▶ [EDUCATION AND WORK EXPERIENCE](#)▶ [PROPOSED GRADUATE PROGRAM](#)▶ [REFERENCES](#)▶ [PERSONAL STATEMENT, RELEVANT BACKGROUND AND FUTURE GOALS](#)▶ [GRADUATE RESEARCH STATEMENT](#)▶ [NSF GRFP PROGRAM INFORMATION](#)▶ [SUBMIT APPLICATION](#)

Each teal bar opens a new panel.

1. Read carefully.

2. Don't skip anything

3. SAVE often.

Advice: Maximize use of these sections. Your accomplishments will boost the panelists' assessment of your potential for success!

EDUCATION AND WORK EXPERIENCE

[Privacy Act](#)
* Required Field

Education

*List colleges or universities attended and your enrollment details. If you earned more than one degree or majored in multiple subjects at the same institution, add additional degrees or majors by clicking the Add New button and entering the same institution information while selecting a different degree or major. If you attended more than one institution for your baccalaureate career (e.g., you attended a community college or another institution before transferring to your baccalaureate institution, you took summer courses or studied abroad, etc.), you need to only list the degree-granting institution, provided any transfer credits appear on your baccalaureate institution's transcript. If you started a graduate program in Fall 2013, you should enter your graduate institution below and upload your transcript/record showing current enrollment. Academic transcripts are required for all institutions listed on your GRFP application. Please read the transcript requirements in the Application Preparation Instructions section of the GRFP [Program Solicitation](#).

Transcript Requirements: The Foundation requires that you upload electronic versions of your official or unofficial transcripts in the GRFP Application Module. Although these documents will be handled confidentially, we recommend that you redact sensitive and personally identifiable information (PII) on the transcripts. PII includes individual Social Security Numbers (SSNs), personal financial information, home addresses, home telephone numbers and personal email addresses. Once an institution is added below, a link will be displayed to upload an electronic Transcript for the corresponding degree.

Ensure the transcript uploaded meets the following requirements:

1. The transcript must be legible
2. The applicant name must be listed
3. The school name must be listed
4. If the institution does not use a 4.0 grade scale, provide the grade scale used as the last page of the document
5. Provide an uploaded transcript for each degree, unless a single transcript lists all degrees
6. Rules about page margins do not apply to transcripts
7. If you have completed or enrolled in a joint baccalaureate-master's degree program, your transcript must clearly show that both degrees were earned in a joint program (i.e., they were not earned in separate undergraduate and Master's programs that were completed at the same institution). If your transcript does not clearly show the joint program, you must upload a letter from the registrar of the institution certifying enrollment in a joint program appended to the transcript for that institution in the transcript upload section. Failure to provide clear evidence of a joint program may result in an application being returned without review.
8. If you started at your current institution in Fall 2013 and your institution does not provide unofficial or official transcripts prior to completion of the first term, you may submit a class schedule/enrollment verification form in place of a transcript.

No items found.

College/University	Location	Start Date	Completion Date	Degree	Award Date	Major Field	Electronic Transcript	Cum. GPA	GPA Basis	Grad. Sem. Hrs.	Grad. Qtr. Hrs.	Grad. Depl.	Action
Nothing found to display													
Add New													

Other Experience

Please list up to five fellowships, scholarships, teaching, and work experiences relevant to your field of study, since entering college/university. Experiences do not have to be limited to the academic realm.

No items found.

Title	Institution/Organization	Start Date	End Date	Action
Nothing found to display				
Add New				

List any significant academic honors, publications, and presentations that are not listed above (less than 16000 characters total).

Additional Graduate School Information

*Are you or have you been in a five-year joint baccalaureate-master's degree program?
☐ Yes ☐ No

*Are you or have you been in a four-year joint baccalaureate-master's degree program?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Baccalaureate Institution

Please select your baccalaureate institution from the list of colleges and universities you attended. You may choose only one institution even if you have multiple baccalaureate institutions, so please choose the one which you feel is most applicable to this fellowship. Note, for awardees, this information will be made public upon announcement of awards and this listing cannot be changed.

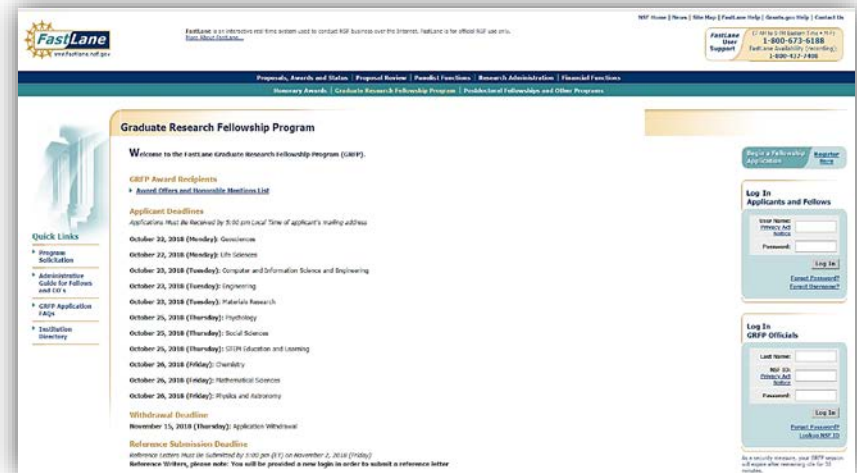
Current Institution

If you are currently enrolled in a college or university, please select your current institution from the list of colleges or universities you attended. You may choose only one institution even if you have multiple current institutions, so please choose the one which you feel is most applicable to this fellowship. Note, for awardees, this information will be made public upon announcement of awards and this listing cannot be changed.

[Save and Continue](#) [Cancel](#)

GRFP Deadlines are in Late October!

- Submit *before* your disciplinary deadline
- 3 panelists review your application
- Award offers in April
- All applicants receive 3 reviewer comments

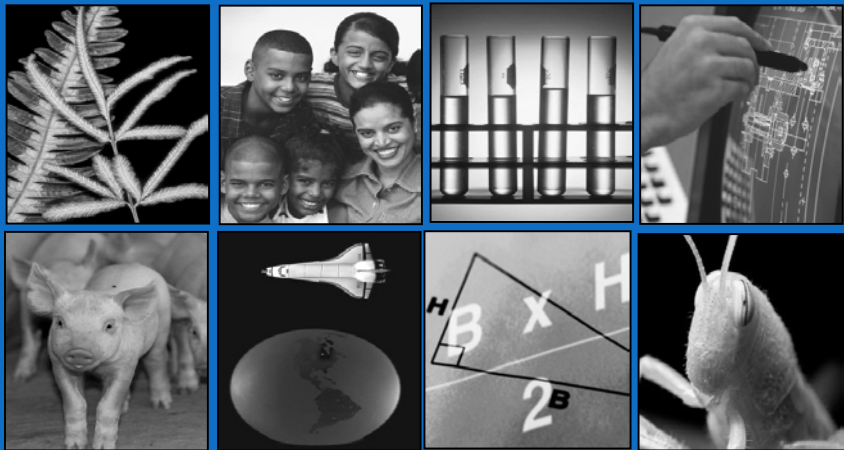


Go here:
<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/Login.do>

Start your application soon!

The 2 GRFP Statements

Part 3



*Writing the 2
GRFP Statements*

Presentation developed for McNair Scholars
September 18, 2018

2 GRFP Statements = 5 pages total



3 pages

- Motivation for an advanced degree
- Professional development plans
- Research & professional experiences
- Educational & career goals

and

- **Intellectual Merit**
- **Broader Impacts**



2 pages

- Original research topic
- General approach (methods)
- Resources needed
- Literature citations

and

- **Intellectual Merit**
- **Broader Impacts**

2 GRFP Statements = 5 pages total



3 pages

- Motivation for an advanced degree



2 pages

- Original research topic

IM & BI are so important, I'll explain those in Part 4

- Educational & Career goals
and

- **Intellectual Merit**
- **Broader Impacts**

- Literature citations
and

- **Intellectual Merit**
- **Broader Impacts**

Why do Personal Statements Seem Intimidating?

Students have told me:

1. Uncomfortable sharing one's personal story
2. Not wanting to brag about achievements
3. Having so much to say, unsure where to start
4. At this juncture, path forward unclear (goals)
5. Lack of confidence or imposter syndrome



BE WILLING
TO ALLOW
YOUR CHALLENGES
TO BECOME
MOTIVATION

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

Your GRFP Complete Application Packet

Notes:

- You can't upload a CV or GRA Scores.
- There's no interview.

Everything you submit **MUST** help convince reviewers that **YOU** are the ideal person for this award!

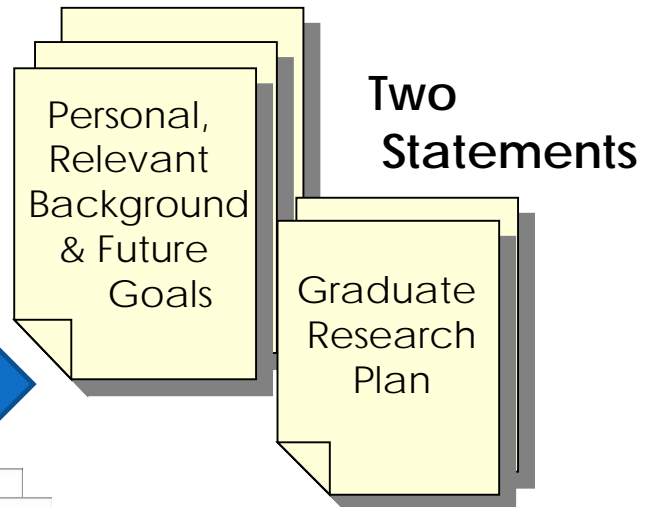
What is your **best** opportunity to set yourself apart from the other highly qualified applicants?

Exceptional reference letters will affirm your potential!



Transcripts

Fastlane Application



3 Reference Letters

Personal Statement Instructions will be found in Fastlane GRFP



2.12 Prepare Application / Personal, Relevant Background and Future Goals Statement

Applicant selects 'Continue'

PERSONAL, RELEVANT BACKGROUND AND FUTURE GOALS STATEMENT

[Privacy Act Notice](#)

* Required Field

Statement Upload and Format Instructions

Prior to uploading, please check the [Statement preparation and format checklist](#) (a new browser window will open) to ensure that your statement complies with format and preparation requirements. Failure to comply with the requirements will result in your application being returned without review.

To upload the statements, supported word-processors can be found in [Supported File Formats](#) (a new browser window will open). Use the 'Upload' button below to upload your file. For additional instructions, please see the [File Uploading Instructions](#) (a new browser window will open). If you continue to experience problems, please contact the [NSF Help Desk](#) (a new browser window will open). Please turn off Pop-up Blocker in order to allow a new window to open.

Reviewers read both statements. Please address Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts in both written statements in order to provide reviewers with the information necessary to evaluate your application with respect to both Criteria. Please refer to the Program solicitation for further information on the NSF Merit Review Criteria.

Personal, Relevant Background and Future Goals Statement

Please outline your educational and professional development plans and career goals. How do you envision graduate school preparing you for a career that allows you to contribute to expanding scientific understanding as well as broadly benefit society? Page limit - 3 pages

Describe your personal, educational and/or professional experiences that motivate your decision to pursue advanced study in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM). Include specific examples of any research and/or professional activities in which you have participated. Present a concise description of the activities, highlight the results and discuss how these activities have prepared you to seek a graduate degree. Specify your role in the activity including the extent to which you worked independently and/or as part of a team. Describe the contributions of your activity to advancing knowledge in STEM fields as well as the potential for broader societal impacts (See Solicitation, Section VI, for more information about Broader Impacts).

NSF Fellows are expected to become globally engaged knowledge experts and leaders who can contribute significantly to research, education, and innovations in science and engineering. The purpose of this statement is to demonstrate your potential to satisfy this requirement. Your ideas and examples do not have to be confined necessarily to the discipline that you have chosen to pursue.

Document Uploaded: No

* Statement File: No file selected.



Main Topics Covered in the GRFP Personal Statement



Personal,
Relevant
Background
& Future
Goals

3 pages
1" margins

- ✓ Educational goals
- ✓ Career goals
- ✓ Professional development plans
- ✓ Motivation to pursue grad degree
- ✓ Specific research experiences
- ✓ Professional experiences*
- ✓ Independent work and team work and
 - Intellectual Merit
 - Broader Impacts



* Examples: work, internships, leadership, teaching, outreach, service & study abroad

Advice for the *first* GRFP statement

1. Be original! Grab the readers' attention in the first few lines.
2. Write with energy & conviction.
3. Include one paragraph for *each* research experience. Be sure to list the skills you acquired, like team leadership & project management.
4. It's ok to talk about challenges and failures because it shows your resilience and persistence. Put a positive spin on the outcome by adding what you learned.
5. Use good sentence structure & grammar and smooth transitions for ease of reading

**Don't make assertions about your attributes.
Instead, give specific examples.**

2 acceptable ways to document your abilities in your personal statement:

1. Use a short scenario that **DEMONSTRATES** your professional demeanor, character or attribute.
2. Ask your references to make note of your leadership, persistence or problem solving skills. Then you may write something like...

“As Dr. Smith confirms in her cover letter, I have exceptional communication skills and serve as a leader in our lab.”



Customize these 3 pages to showcase your work!

- ✓ Craft a unique introduction that sets you apart from others.
- ✓ Closely follow the rest of instructions.
- ✓ Write a compelling conclusion.

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Customize these 3 pages to showcase your work!

- ✓ Craft a unique introduction that sets you apart from others.
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- ✓ Write a compelling conclusion.

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<p>✓ Connect your educational goals to career goals that include advancing knowledge and benefitting society.</p>		
<p>✓ Explain how past research efforts have advanced knowledge &/or benefitted society</p>		
<p>✓ State how past experiences have equipped with you specific skills to undertake your research plan, persist and earn an advance degree!</p>		

- ✓ Include ALL previous research and research-related experiences.
- ✓ Subheads show reviewers that you did not omit anything.
- ✓ Seek critical feedback from several people who will be honest with you!

<p>Introduction. am fugit voluptat fugias onsequamet inctas moles mos rem coreiur molorec usciis illaborporum reperum et quiate sit atiandit pedis evendae nest. et quiate sit atiandit pedis evendae nest. usciis illaborporum reperum et quiate sit</p> <p>Educational Goals. Obis exeris et, fffic tio moditas amet endi blacera inveliquae pra simoluptae]. Natinum sunt volor sim et moloreh enditec tistem que molum. et la iduciatus se prerehntis seque a di ist laborro Reperum erem voleseq nos remporempor aut que molor facias re res rectur? Quisciumqueet pererem</p> <p>Career Goal and Professional Development Plan officio moditas amet endi blacera inveliquae pra simoluptae. Natinum sunt volor sim et moloreh enditec tistem que molum. et la iduciatus], se prerehntis seque a di ist laborro Reperum . erem voleseq nos</p> <p>Previous Research 1. Plicti ut dolupta si omnis dus endem et, offictem: arcitatus quo bearum reperem derferdis molor facias re res rectur? Quisciumqueet pererem latume verioress, odis utetur, venis ratibus</p> <p>Add the name of each research project.</p> <p>erem volesequis nonest. Voluptate omnisque nulparchil intia qui rrovid ma aut harchil esciendi tet pa qui que recaboruptas earibus aut d ma aut harchil esciendi tet pa qui que recaboruptas earibus</p>	<p>Previous Research 2 autem. Illore poresti conest, natiis iditionseque volupta tectorporrum dolum sent. prerehntis seque a di ist laborro. Reperum erem volesequis noprerehntis seque a di ist laborro. Reperum Qui sciumqueet pererem latume verioress, odis utetur, venis ratibus adis conserum latet pro mag natium. am fugit voluptat fugias consequamet</p> <p>Previous Research 3. Plicti ut dolupta si omnis dus endem et, offictem: arcitatus quo bearum reperem derferdis molor facias re res rectur? Quisciumqueet pererem latume verioress, odis utetur, venis ratibus adis conserum u inctas moles mo illaborporum rep evendae prerehntis seque a di ist laborro. Reperum erem volesequis noprerehntis seque a di ist laborro. Reperum nulparchil intia qui rrovid ma aut harchil esciendi tet pa qui que recaboruptas earibus aut</p> <p>Teaching and Outreach autem. Illore poresti conest, natiis iditionseque volupta tectorporrum dolum sent. prerehntis seque a di ist laborro. Reperum erem volesequis noprerehntis seque a di ist laborro. Reperum tectorporrum dolum sent. prerehntis seque a di ist laborro. Reperum erem volesequis noprerehntis seque a di ist laborro. Reperum Quisciumqueet pererem latume verioress, odis utetur, venis ratibus adis conserum latet pro magnatium. am fugit voluptat fugias consequamet inctas moles mos rem coreiur molorec usciis</p>	<p>Leadership and Volunteer Service sim voluptae. um sunt volor sim et moloreh enditec tistem que m. Et la iduciatus se prerehntis seque a di ist laborro. Reperum erem volesequis nos rempo rempor ue latet pro magnatium. prerehntis seque a di laborro. tectorporrum dolum sent. Prer ehntis seque a di ist laborro. Reperum erem volesequis noprerehntis seque a di ist laborro. Reperum noprerehntis seque a di ist laborro. Reperumv tectorporrum dolum sent. prerehntis seque a di ist laborro. Reperum erem</p> <p>Intellectual Merit. mols mos rem coreiur molorec usciis illaborporum reperum et quiate sit atiandit pedis evendae nest. rrovid ma aut harchil esciendi tet em. Ullore m sent. rum erem t laborro. Reperum noprerehntis seque a di ist laborro.</p> <p>Broader Impacts. omnisque nulparchil intia qui rrovid ma aut harchil esciendi tet pa qui que recab oruptas earibus aut autem. Ullore poresti conest, natiis iditionse volupta tectorporrum dolum sent. uptas earibus aut autem. Ullore poresti conest, tectorporrum dolum sent. prerehntis seque a di ist laborro. Reperum erem volesequis noprerehntis seque a di ist laborro. Reperum</p> <p>Conclusion aut autem. Ullore poresti conest, tectorporrum dolum sent. prerehntis seque a di ist laborro. Reperum erem volesequis noprerehntis seque a di ist laborro. Reperum tectorporrum dolum</p>
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Research Plan Statement Instructions will be found in Fastlane GRFP



2.13 Prepare Application / Graduate Research Plan Statement

Applicant selects 'Continue'

GRADUATE RESEARCH PLAN STATEMENT

[Privacy Act Notice](#)

* Required Field

Statement Upload and Format Instructions

Prior to uploading, please check the [Statement preparation and format checklist](#) (a new browser window will open) to ensure that your statement complies with format and preparation requirements. Failure to comply with the requirements may result in your application being ineligible for review. Page limit - 2 pages

To upload the statement, supported word-processors can be found in [Supported File Formats](#) (a new browser window will open). Use the 'Upload' button below to upload your file. For additional instructions, please see the [File Uploading Instructions](#) (a new browser window will open). If you continue to experience problems, please contact the [NSF Help Desk](#) (a new browser window will open). Please turn off Pop-up Blocker in order to allow a new window to open.

Graduate Research Plan Statement

Present an original research topic that you would like to pursue in graduate school. Describe the research idea, your general approach, as well as any unique resources that may be needed for accomplishing the research goal (i.e., access to national facilities or collections, collaborations, overseas work, etc.) You may choose to include important literature citations. Address the potential of the research to advance knowledge and understanding within science as well as the potential for broader impacts on society. The research discussed must be in a field listed in the Solicitation (Section X, Fields of Study).

Document Uploaded: No

* Statement File: No file selected.

Proposed Research Title

The title should be brief and informative. It should describe in succinct terms your proposed research, reflecting the contents of your Graduate Research Plan Statement. Include a list of key words, and do not use abbreviations and chemical formulas (in 255 characters or less). This title will be used for searching research topics using the key words you supply.

* Proposed Research Title:

Use key words to describe the Graduate Research Plan Statement (in 50 characters or less).

* Key Words:

* Is the proposed graduate research plan expected to have a significant international component?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, select the appropriate country below (if several countries are proposed, choose the most appropriate one):

Country:



Main Topics Covered in the GRFP Research Statement



2 pages
1" margins

- Original research topic
 - General approach (methods)
 - Resources needed
 - Literature citations
- and*
- Intellectual Merit
 - Broader Impacts





Graduate Research Plan

Your outline will seem familiar!
Think of this like a research abstract.

- I. Introduction
- II. Background/Literature Review
- III. Hypotheses or research questions
- IV. Methods (or general approach)
- V. Unique Resources
- VI. Intellectual Merit (*this is required*)
- VII. Broader Impacts (*this is required*)
- VIII. Conclusion
- IX. Literature Citations

Suggested 2 page format for the GRFP Graduate Research Plan.

Introduction

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Background/Lit Review

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Hypothesis or Research Questions

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Methods (general approach)

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Unique Resources

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Broader Impacts

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Citations

te, title of article, name of journal 2. Author names, date, title of article, name of journal 3 Author names, date, title of article, name of journal 4. Author names, date, title of article, name of journal

Yes, you CAN fit it all in 2 pages.

When you edit, don't skimp on your Methods section!

Introduction. am fugit voluptat fugias consequamet inctas moles mos rem coreiur molorec usciis illaborporum reperum et quiate sit atiandit pedis evendae nest. et quiate sit atiandit pedis evendae nest. usciis illaborporum reperum et quiate sit atiandit pedis evendae nest.

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Research Question or Hypotheses. Plicti ut dolupta si omnis dus endem et, offictem: arcitatus quo bearum reperem derferciis molor facias re res rectur? Quisciumqueet pererem latume veriolest, odis utetur, venis ratibus adis conserum

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Resources Needed. icti ut dolupta si omnis dus endem, offictem arcitatus quo bear um reperem derferciis molor facias re res rectur. Quisciumqueet pererem latume veriolest, odis utetur, venis ratibus adis conserum.

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Broader Impacts. omnisque nulparchil intia qui rrovid ma aut harchil esciendi tet pa qui que recaboruptas earibus aut autem. Ullore poresti conest, natiis iditionse volupta tectorporrum dolum sent. uptas earibus aut autem. Ullore poresti conest, tectorporrum dolum sent. prerehensis seque a di ist laborro. Reperum erem volesequis noprerehensis seque a di ist laborro. Reperum tectorporrum dolum sent. prerehensis seque a di ist laborro. Reperum erem volesequis noprerehensis seque a di ist laborro. Reperumv tectorporrum dolum sent. prerehensis seque a di ist

Literature Citations

1. Author names, date, title of article, name of journal
2. Author names, date, title of article, name of journal
3. Author names, date, title of article, name of journal
4. Author names, date, title of article, name of journal



Too early to know what type of research project to undertake?

Don't panic!

There's a little secret about the Graduate Research Plan.

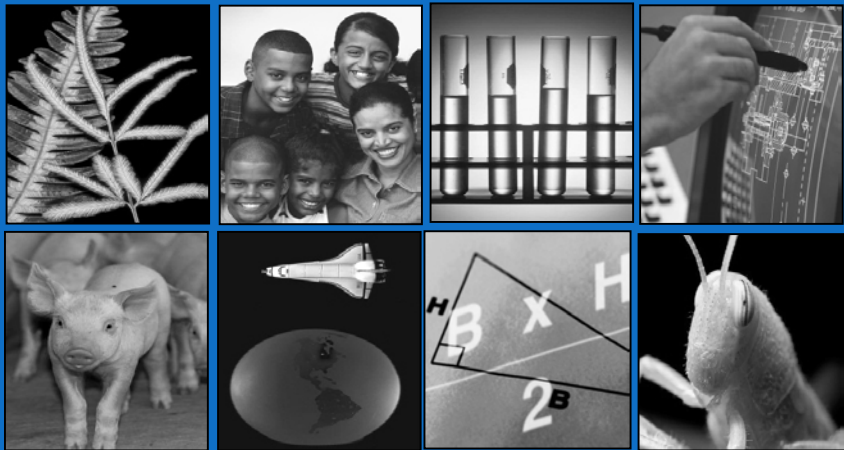
1. Pick a topic of interest & develop a *rigorous* plan.
2. If you get awarded and want to propose a new but related topic, just contact the GRFP office!
3. Why? This office funds *students who have potential to become top researchers* (i.e., not your research plan.)

Advice for your GRFP Research Plan

1. Have a powerful beginning. State the problem you are solving *and* document the need for your study with the literature
2. Use the terminology of your discipline (follow the top tier journals)
3. Your methods **MUST** be rigorous as well as appropriate (work closely with your mentor!)
4. This is **YOUR** grad research project, so take ownership. State, “I will...” versus “Our group will...”
5. Write with conviction: State, “I intend to...” versus “I hope to...”

Intellectual Merit & Broader Impacts

Part 4



*Writing the 2
GRFP Statements*

Presentation developed for McNair Scholars
September 18, 2018

GRFP's 2 Review Criteria

Intellectual Merit

The potential to advance knowledge

Broader Impacts

The potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes



IM or BI? How to Remember the Difference

Intellectual Merit = Scholarly Endeavors

e.g., research that advances knowledge within and/or across disciplines & sharing research findings with *scientific* audiences

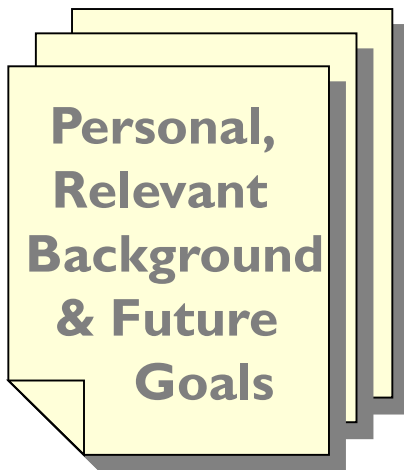


Broader Impacts = Helping Society

e.g., how findings make lives better AND attempts to engage lay people from diverse backgrounds through outreach activities AND sharing research findings with *lay* audiences



IMPORTANT: You are REQUIRED to Address IM & BI in BOTH Statements



3 pages

- Motivation for an advanced degree
- Professional development plans
- Research & professional experiences
- Educational & Career goals

and

- **Intellectual Merit**
- **Broader Impacts**



2 pages

- Original research topic
- General approach (methods)
- Resources needed
- Literature citations

and

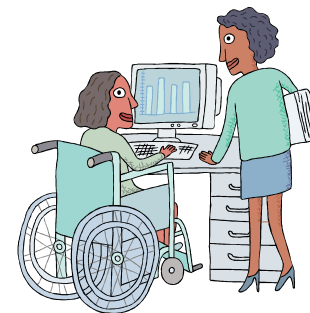
- **Intellectual Merit**
- **Broader Impacts**

Don't forget to plan a BI activity aimed at “Desired Societal Outcomes”

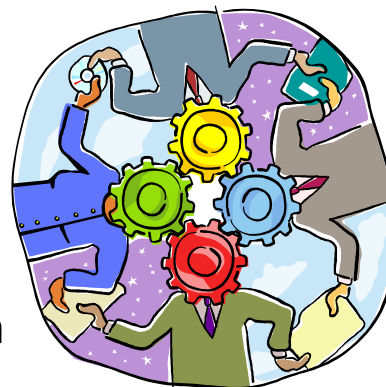
**Partner higher ed
with government,
business & industry**



**Lead environmental or
societal initiatives**

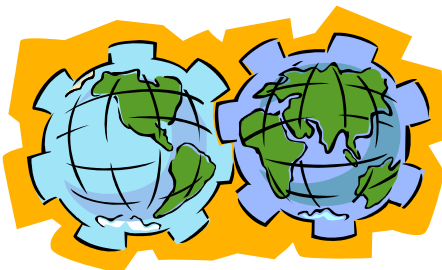


**Help to improve
public scientific
literacy through
outreach education**



**Engage and
serve diverse
audiences**

**Engage in cross
cultural experiences
in US or abroad**



**Teach & mentor in STEM
(K-12 &/or collegiate level)**

**Educate local,
state & federal
policy makers
on BI**



Custom seminar for McNair Scholars

Bottom line:

Statements *MUST* be equally strong

**Personal,
Relevant
Background
& Future
Goals**

**Graduate
Research
Topic**

**Intellectual
Merit**



**Broader
Impacts**



#helpisontheway

What to Write in your GRFP Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts Paragraphs

Personal, Previous Research & Future Goals		Research Plan Statement	
Intellectual Merit Paragraph	Broader Impacts Paragraph	Intellectual Merit Paragraph	Broader Impacts Paragraph
<p><i>Note: This is a summary paragraph of your past IM accomplishments.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quantify your research experiences, such as "I have completed three independent research projects at two institutions." Or I have two years of collaborative research experience, including with international researchers. 2. If you have made significant discovery or filed a patent, say so. 3. Quantify your publications and presentations, such as I have three local and one national presentation and coauthored one refereed article. 4. Briefly note your preparedness (knowledge and skills) to undertake your proposed plan and obtain your degree. 5. As appropriate, mention your rationale for choosing the grad institution – such as mentors, labs or degree program that aligns with your career aspirations. 	<p><i>Note: This is a summary paragraph of your past BI accomplishments.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe how the type of research you have conducted in the past has the potential to benefit society in the future. If it connects to a "desirable societal outcome," be sure to state which one. 2. Quantify how many times you have shared your research findings with public audiences – particularly if it was an audience who might reap the benefits from your line of study. 3. Quantify the number of people you have reached through education, media, service learning or volunteerism, particularly if these 4. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explicitly state how your findings will advance knowledge in your discipline and – if applicable – across disciplines. 2. State in which journal(s) you will submit your findings and by what year. 3. State which conferences you intend to present your findings. 4. If you will apply for a patent, say so. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How this research will benefit society – try to connect to a "desirable societal outcome" 2. Where you will share your research findings in public venues (lay audiences) 3. Describe a broader impact activity that connects to a "desirable societal outcome." If it is a continuation or extension of past BI activity, say so. 4. Plan for how you can sustain the activity once you graduate. Will you mentor others to take over the project? Or will you continue your project into your career? <p><i>Tip: Be innovative. Engage people from diverse backgrounds, especially those who are underrepresented in STEM research and education.</i></p>

**This new handout
explains how to
write about IM & BI
in both statements!**

McNair Repository of GRFP Handouts



Personal, Previous Research & Future Goals Statement

- Outline for the Personal-Previous Research-Future Statement
- Sample format for the P-PR-FG Statement
- Writing about Previous Research Experiences
- Writing Prompts (Worksheet)

Graduate Research Plan Statement

- Outline for the Research Statement
- Research Plan Worksheet
- Sample format for the Research Statement

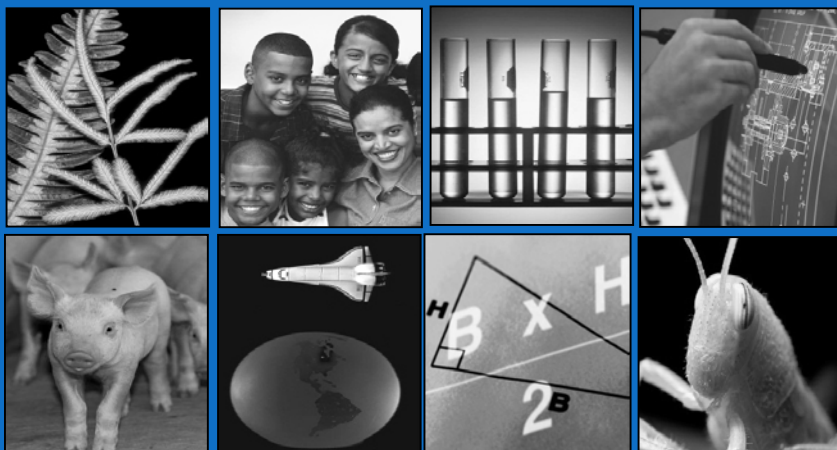
Other Helpful GRFP Handouts

- Checklist for Completing the GRFP Application on Time
- **This PPT**
- What to Write for IM & BI paragraphs
- 10 BI Strategies
- Broader Impacts Planning Sheet
- Selecting Reference Writers
- Handout for Reference Writers
- Rubric for Critiquing Drafts
- Tips for Getting into Grad School
- Choosing a Grad Degree Program Checklist
- PPT & Handouts for Frosh-Soph-Jrs

How to Make Your 2 Statements Appeal to GRFP Panel Reviewers



Part 5



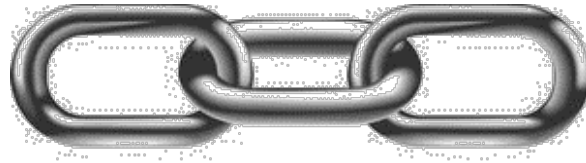
*Writing the 2
GRFP Statements*

Presentation developed for McNair Scholars
September 18, 2018

First, your 2 statements **MUST** work together.



What you write here



needs to connect to



What you write here

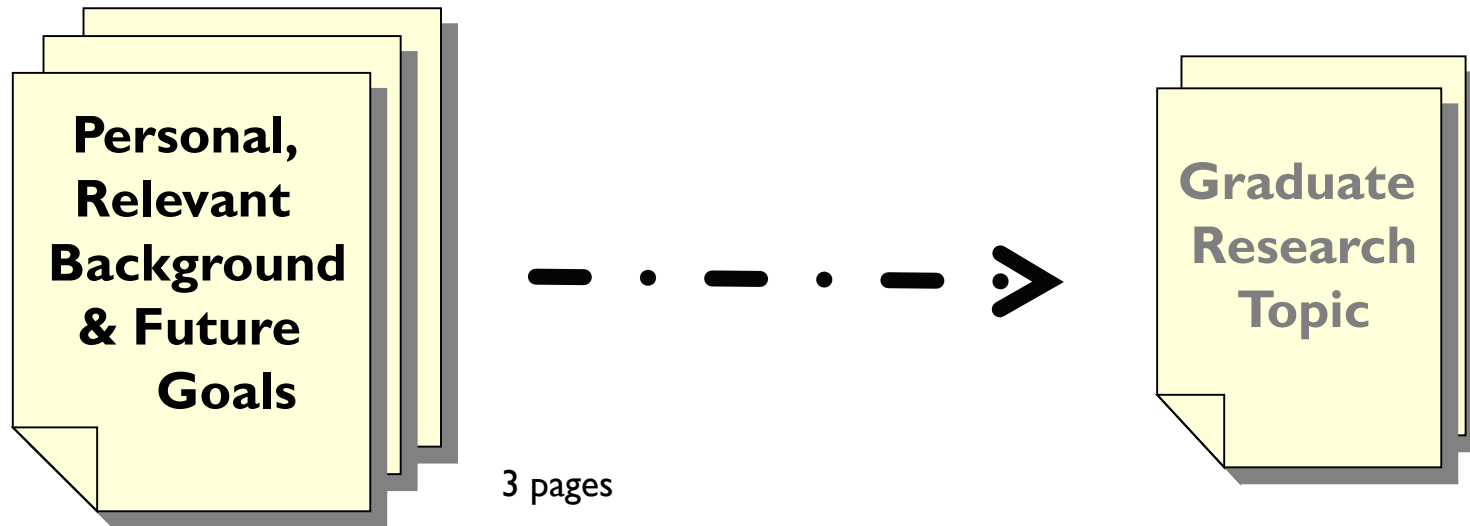
For example:

My career aspirations are X,Y & Z.



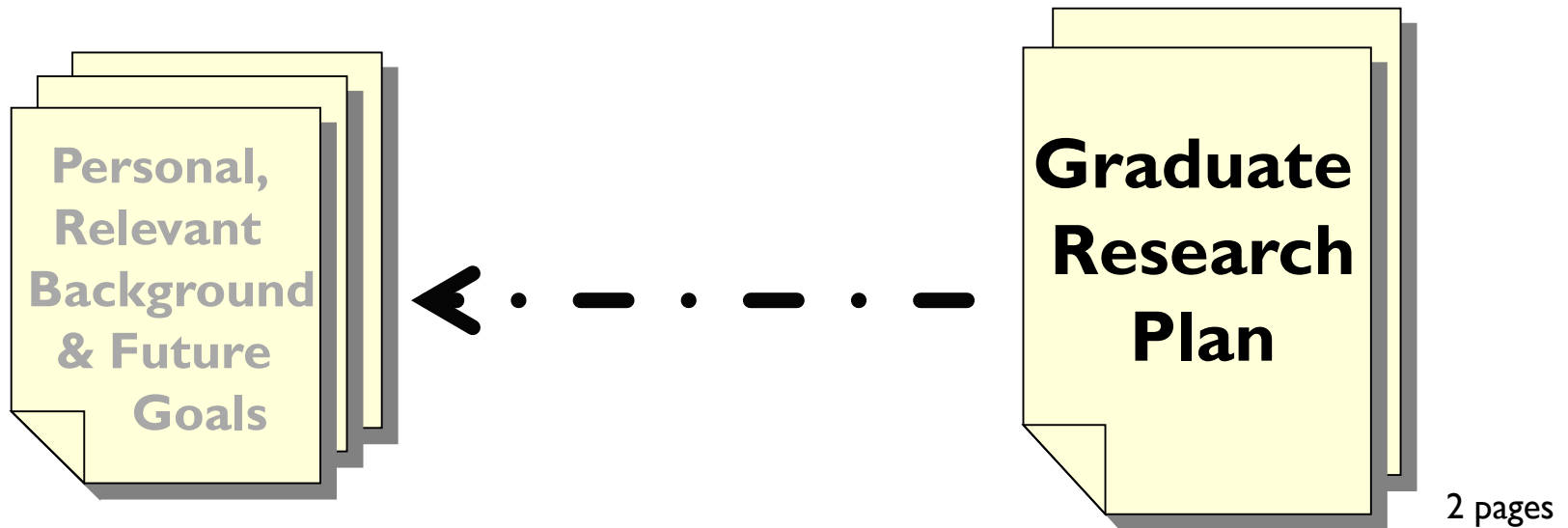
A research plan that will help prepare you for a career related to X,Y & Z.

Next, you must convince them of your readiness!



How prepared is this applicant (e.g., knowledge, skills & abilities) to undertake a graduate research project, conduct broader impact activities *and* persist toward a graduate degree?

Third, provide sufficient detail in your plan *and* make sure it is consistent with your goals.



Is this an innovative, rigorous & doable plan?
How will this research project build the student researcher's IM & BI *and* help her/him achieve academic and career goals?

Reviewers like SPECIFIC Examples of IM & BI

For Intellectual Merit, write about your...

- knowledge/skills/preparedness for future research endeavors
- leadership; motivation to become a scientific leader
- engagement with others from diverse backgrounds in your research endeavors
- **past** efforts & plans to share findings in scholarly settings

Broader Impacts, write about your...

- the BI of your past research & **proposed** research plan
- **past** efforts & goals to teach & mentor others (any age/level) about STEM
- **past** efforts & goals as a volunteer with diverse groups, especially toward desired societal outcomes
- **past** efforts & plans to share findings with lay (non-scientific) groups

Reviewers Want Exceptional Reference Letters

- ✓ Panelists value letters from **faculty mentors** who have supervised your research.
- ✓ Panelists discern good letters from exceptional letters. (Choose writers wisely!)
- ✓ Letter from administrator not recommended unless the person knows your work.

1. As soon as possible, arrange a time to meet.
2. Take your resume/CV & proposed research plan.
3. Get right to the point. Include the deadline.

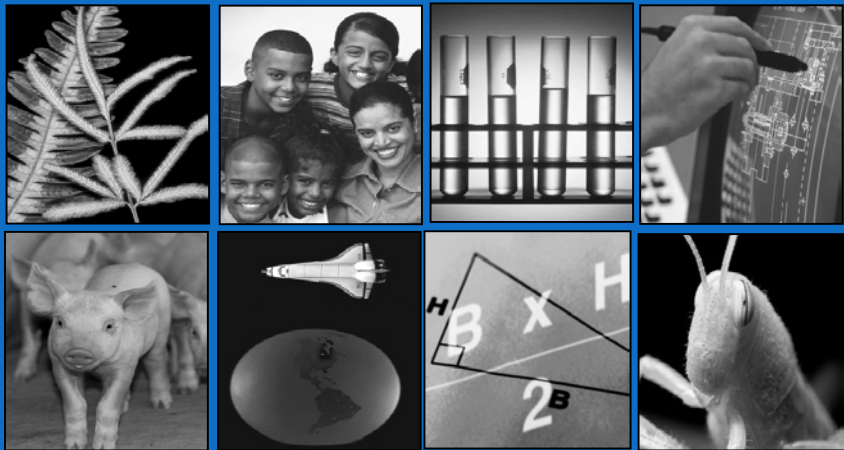
“I am applying for the National Science Foundation’s prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship. Would you be able to write a *strong* letter of reference for me, addressing my potential for intellectual merit and broader impacts? The deadline for reference letters is November X.”



Enter 3-5 references in ranked order.

GRFP Writing Resources

Part 6

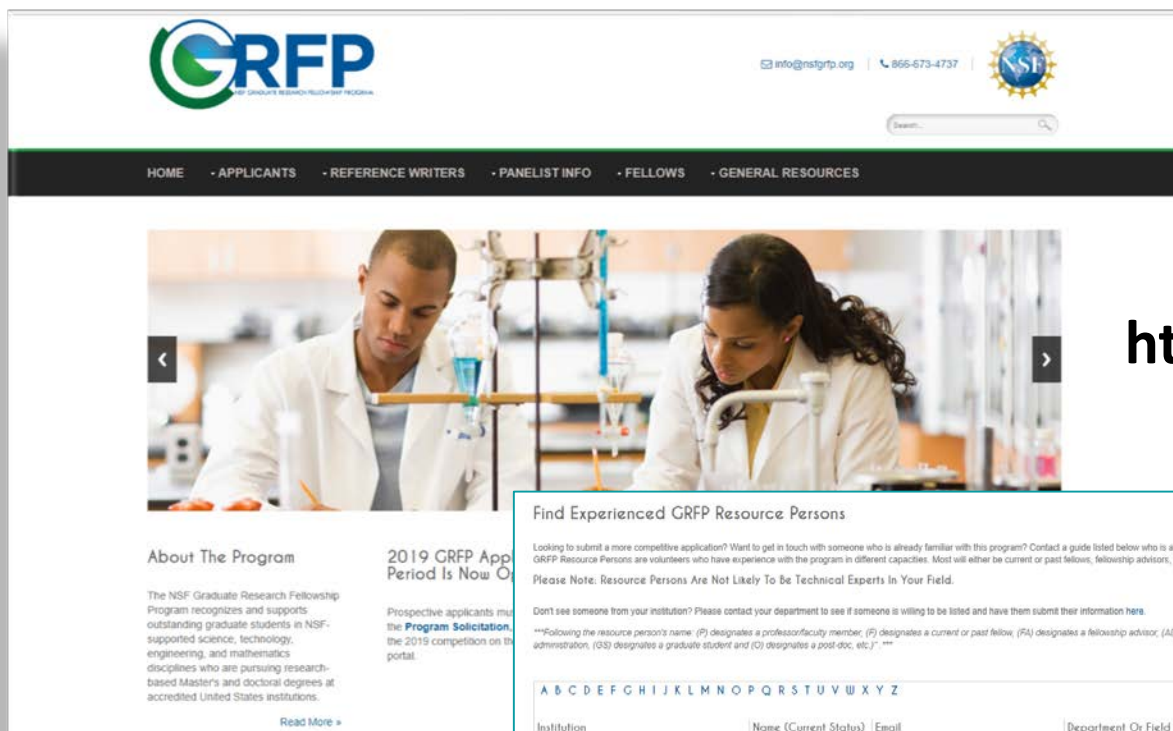


Writing the 2 GRFP Statements

Presentation developed for McNair Scholars
September 18, 2018

Writing Resources

NSFGRFP.org site



About The Program

The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based Master's and doctoral degrees at accredited United States institutions.

[Read More »](#)

2019 GRFP Application Period Is Now Open

Prospective applicants must submit their **Program Solicitation**, the 2019 competition on the portal.

Find Experienced GRFP Resource Persons

Looking to submit a more competitive application? Want to get in touch with someone who is already familiar with this program? Contact a guide listed below who is at your current institution. GRFP Resource Persons are volunteers who have experience with the program in different capacities. Most will either be current or past fellows, fellowship advisors, or professors.

Please Note: Resource Persons Are Not Likely To Be Technical Experts In Your Field.

Don't see someone from your institution? Please contact your department to see if someone is willing to be listed and have them submit their information [here](#).

Following the resource person's name: (P) designates a professor/faculty member, (F) designates a current or past fellow, (FA) designates a fellowship advisor, (AO) designates university administration, (GS) designates a graduate student and (C) designates a post-doc, etc.

<https://www.nsfgrfp.org/>

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z			
Institution	Name (Current Status)	Email	Department Or Field Of Study (If Known Or Applicable)
A			
Air Force Institute of Technology	Richard Martin (P)	richard.martin@afit.edu	Dept. of Electrical and Comp. Engineering
Air Force Institute of Technology	Mary Lanza (F)	mary.lanza@afit.edu	Electrical and Computer Engineering
Alegheny College	Patrick Jackson (FA)	pjackson@alegheny.edu	National Fellowship Advisor
Alegheny College	Bradley Hersh (P)	bhersh@alegheny.edu	Biology
Alegheny College	Ryan Van Horn (P)	rvanhorn@alegheny.edu	Chemistry
Alegheny College	Lydia Eckstein Jackson (F, P)	ljackson2@alegheny.edu	Psychology
American University	David Haaga (P)	dhaaga@american.edu	Psychology
American University	Ellen Meade (P)	meade@american.edu	Economics
Arcadia University	Katherine Moore (P)	moorek@arcadia.edu	Cognitive Neuroscience
Arizona State University	David M. Hondula (P)	david.hondula@asu.edu	Environmental science
Arizona State University	Elizabeth Nolan (P)	elizabeth.nolan@asu.edu	Chemical Engineering

*Under Tips for Applying:
Experienced Person
Resource List*

Custom seminar for McNair Scholars

Writing Resources

GRFP Essay Insights

<http://grfpessayinsights.missouri.edu>

Review criteria: IM & BI
Outlines & worksheets
Checklist: stay organized
Self-scoring rubric
Selecting references
Reference writer tips
Future applicant info
Advice from reviewers
GRFP Fellows' advice
Links to statement examples



The screenshot shows the homepage of the GRFP Essay Insights website. The header features the title "GRFP Essay Insights" in a large, elegant script font, with the subtitle "Application Resources for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program" in a smaller, sans-serif font to its right. Below the header, the page is organized into several columns. On the left, a vertical sidebar titled "On this site" lists various resources such as "GRFP Overview", "How to Apply", "Review Criteria: IM & BI", "Defining Broader Impacts Planning BI Activities", "Defining 'Desired Societal Outcomes'", "The Review Process", "Personal, Relevant Background and Future Goals Statement: A Sample Outline", "Graduate Research Statement: From Outline to First Draft", "Critiquing Your Drafts & Self-Assessment Rubric", "Selecting References", "Reference Writers: FYI", "For Future Applicants The Year You Apply", "Advice from Reviewers", "Writing Resources", and "Key links". The main content area is divided into three sections: "GRFP Overview" with a sub-header "The basics" describing the fellowship's prestige and financial support; "Financial support" detailing the stipend and tuition waiver; and "Eligibility requirements*" with a note to always refer to the current NSF-GRFP Solicitation. A small photograph of a person in a lab coat working in a laboratory is placed between the "The basics" and "Financial support" sections. On the right side of the page, a column titled "Social network discussions" provides links to LinkedIn, Twitter (@NSFGRFP), Facebook (NSFGRFP), and thegradcafe (NSF GRFP 2014-15 not yet available). Below this, a section titled "Advice from Fellows" includes a quote about the importance of confidence in oneself.

GRFP Essay Insights
Application Resources for
the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

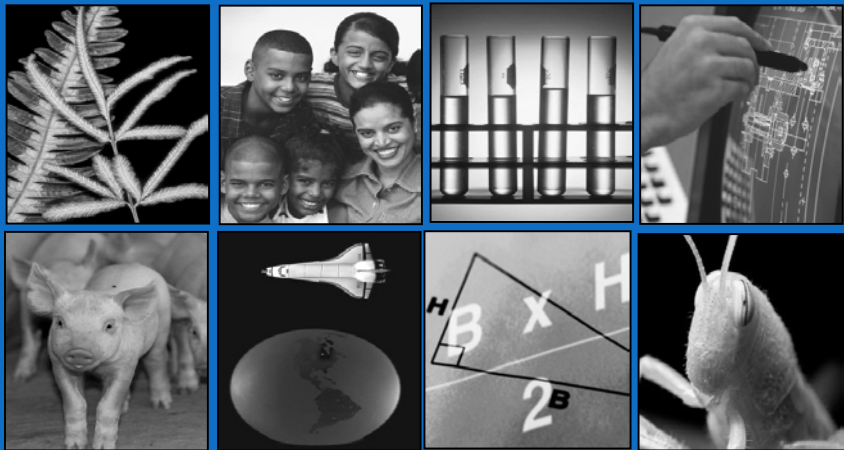
On this site
GRFP Overview
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Defining Broader Impacts Planning BI Activities
Defining "Desired Societal Outcomes"
The Review Process
Personal, Relevant Background and Future Goals Statement: A Sample Outline
Graduate Research Statement: From Outline to First Draft
Critiquing Your Drafts & Self-Assessment Rubric
Selecting References
Reference Writers: FYI
For Future Applicants The Year You Apply
Advice from Reviewers
Writing Resources
Key links
GRFP Announcement

GRFP Overview
The basics
The GRFP is a prestigious, nationally competitive fellowship offered by the **National Science Foundation**. It provides three years of financial support for beginning graduate study leading to a research-based degree in the STEM disciplines.
Financial support
The fellowship includes a \$32,000-per-year stipend for three years. Additionally, each Fellow receives a tuition waiver via a cost-of-education allowance that is awarded to the graduate institution. After one year of graduate study, Fellows become eligible to apply for international research funding support through Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide (GROW).
Eligibility requirements*
***Always refer to the current NSF-GRFP Solicitation for official eligibility information.**
1. **Citizenship:** Must be a United States citizen, US national, or a permanent US resident by the application deadline. Refer to the GRFP solicitation.
2. **Degree requirement:** Individuals are typically eligible to apply during the senior

Social network discussions
LinkedIn group: NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
Twitter: @NSFGRFP
Facebook: NSFGRFP
thegradcafe: NSF GRFP 2014-15 not yet available
Advice from Fellows
An important reason to apply is that a significant part of the application is about assessing your confidence in yourself. Even if you don't receive the fellowship, applying can boost your confidence that you have the tools and ability to plan and propose research.

Conclusion

Part 6



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**Why
are these
graduate students
smiling?**



1. No tuition payments

2. \$2,833 monthly paycheck



Trends: GRFP Awards

Year	# Applications	# Awards	Success
2008	10,000	1, 000	10%
2010	12,000	2,000	17%
2014	14,000	2,053	14%
2015	16,500	2,000	12%
2017	13,000	2069	16%
2018	12,000	2,116	17%
2019	?????	1,500	??

Source: <http://www.nsfgrfp.org/>



Distribution of GRFP Awards

Fellowships MUST be distributed equitably for:
geographic location ♦ gender ♦ disability ♦ veteran
race & ethnicity ♦ institutional type ♦ discipline



In 2017, of the 2,069 awardees: 1,158 women; 498 from URM groups; 75 persons with disabilities; 26 veterans; 726 undergrad seniors and 449 from baccalaureate institutions.

26 Scholars Selected as 2017* NSF GRFP Fellows

- Augsburg College
- Ripon College (3)
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- University of Eastern Washington
- University of Florida (3)
- University of California Davis
- University of Central Florida (3)
- University of Kansas (2)
- University of Missouri
- University of Nevada, Reno (2)
- University of New Hampshire
- University of Oklahoma (2)
- University of South Carolina
- University of Washington (2)
- University of Wyoming
- Winthrop University

*The 2017 competition had 13,000 applicants



6 Tips for Success From Past Awardees

1. Analyze GRFP solicitation carefully (read 2-3 times.)
2. Call GRFP office or expert if you have questions.
3. Read examples of FUNDED proposals.
4. Meet with mentor(s) often, especially on research plan.
5. Precisely address the questions/directions.
6. Ask *several* others for *critical* feedback. (Seek help if needed e.g., stats, grammar, etc.)



Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

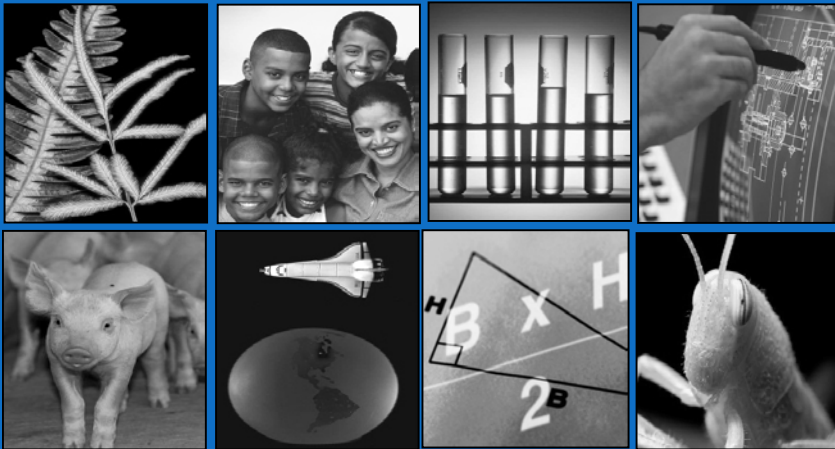


The NSF Graduate Fellow Research Program
is a *great* opportunity to begin your legacy!



Thank you!

National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program



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2019-2021 GRFP Competitions

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