The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

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GRFP Overview

- Initiated 1952
- Identifies Nation’s future STEM leaders
- Focuses on the individual
- Promotes diversity in the STEM workforce
- Adheres to the NSF Merit Review Criteria
Five Year Award – $121,500

- Three years of support
  - $30,000 Stipend per year
  - $10,500 Educational allowance to institution
- International research opportunities
- Supercomputer access
Choice of project, research advisor & program
No service requirement
Portability
  ◦ Any accredited institution
  ◦ MS → PhD
Flexibility
  ◦ “On Reserve”
  ◦ “On Tenure”
GRFP Funding History

Awardees proportional to applications in each field
Fellowship Award Year

Number of new Fellows in nuclear physics

Fellowship Award Year


Number of new Fellows in nuclear physics

0 10 20 30 40
Fellowship Award Year

Number of new Fellows in Physics & Astr

Total new Fellows

Fellowship Award Year

Number of new Fellows in Physics & Astronomy

All Fellows
Physics and Astronomy NSF Graduate Fellows

- Astrophysics: 22%
- Atomic & Molec: 10%
- Condensed Matter: 17%
- Nuclear: 1%
- Optics: 5%
- Other: 13%
- Particle: 8%
- Plasma: 3%
- Solid State: 1%
2,000 New awards & 2026 Honorable Mentions
$136 million FY 2010 budget
3,600 Fellows enrolled in 200 institutions
  ◦ ~20% Physical sciences & mathematics
  ◦ ~30% Engineering
  ◦ ~30% Life sciences
  ◦ ~20% Social sciences
By FY 2013
  ◦ 3,000 New awards
GRFP Success Rate

- 2008
  - 1,000 Awards
  - 10,000 Applications
  - ~ 10% Success

- 2010
  - 2,000 Awards
  - 12,000 Applications
  - ~ 17% Success
U.S. citizens and permanent residents
Early-career students
Pursuing research-based MS and PhD
NSF supported fields
Enrolled in accredited institution in US or abroad
Applicant Resources

nsfgrfp.org

- Tips for applying
- Frequently asked questions
- Find experienced GRFP resource
- Other funding opportunities
- Panelist registration