Gulf States Math Alliance 2019 Conference
The University of Texas at Arlington
Saturday, February 16, 2019
What is the NSF GRFP?

[https://www.nsfgrfp.org/](https://www.nsfgrfp.org/)

**Award Description**
- Graduate level national fellowship supporting individuals in their *early graduate careers*
- Demonstrated potential for significant research in STEM fields
- Awarded to about **1500** applicants nationwide
- Past fellows include numerous Nobel Prize winners, US Secretary of Energy, and Google Founder

**Award Distribution**
- **Three years** of support for master’s/doctoral degrees over **five years**

**Award Funds**
- Anticipated funding amount **$138,000**
- Stipend of **$34,000** annually | **$2,833** monthly
- Cost- of- education allowance **$46,000** total | **$12,000** annually
- Available cyberinfrastructure resources: supercomputing time
- International and professional development opportunities
NSF GRFP Myths

- It is too hard | it is impossible to get the award

- Students must have determined their graduate school university and thesis project before applying

- Students from Ivy League schools have a better chance at getting the fellowship

- Students must have published research articles prior to applying

- Personal and research statements must be written in formal essay format
NSF GRFP Application Process

- Confirm Eligibility
  - US citizen, national, or permanent resident
  - Enrollment in full-time research-based graduate degree - STEM
  - First graduate degree

- Initiate Preparations
- Locate and Utilize Available Resources
- Plan Overall Deliverable Package

Start Online Application: FastLane
Start Writing: Personal Statement and Research Proposal
Acquire Reference Letters
NSF GRFP Application Process

- Confirm Eligibility
- Initiate Preparations
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- Start Online Application: FastLane
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- Note the deadlines **October 25, 2019**
  - primary field of study
  - corresponding specialty fields
- Give application sufficient time
NSF GRFP Application Process


https://www.alexhunterlang.com/nsf-fellowship

Confirm Eligibility

Initiate Preparations

Locate and Utilize Available Resources

Plan Overall Deliverable Package

Start Online Application: FastLane

Start Writing: Personal Statement and Research Proposal

Acquire Reference Letters

- NSF GRFP website
- Program solicitation
- Previous applicant / fellow websites
- Fellows in your institution
- Faculty members
NSF GRFP Application Process

1. Confirm Eligibility
2. Initiate Preparations
3. Locate and Utilize Available Resources
4. Plan Overall Deliverable Package

- Academic record
  GPA, transcripts
- Research experiences
  projects, publications, conferences
- Outreach activities
  summer camps, websites

Start Online Application: FastLane
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NSF GRFP Application Process

- **Confirm Eligibility**

- **Initiate Preparations**

- **Locate and Utilize Available Resources**

- **Plan Overall Deliverable Package**

- **Start Online Application: FastLane**

- **Start Writing: Personal Statement and Research Proposal**

- **Acquire Reference Letters**

- **Long application**
- Little by little
- Don’t be intimidated
NSF GRFP Application Process

- Your **original work**
- **Clear and concise**
- Avoid jargon

- **Intellectual Merit**
  potential to advance knowledge

- **Broader impact**
  potential to benefit society contribute to advancement

- Find a **reviewer** - help

Start Online Application: FastLane

Start Writing: Personal Statement and Research Proposal

Acquire Reference Letters

Confirm Eligibility

Initiate Preparations

Locate and Utilize Available Resources

Plan Overall Deliverable Package
NSF GRFP Application Process

Confirm Eligibility

Initiate Preparations

Locate and Utilize Available Resources

Plan Overall Deliverable Package

- **Three strong reference letters required** - speak to your abilities and potential
- Up to five spots - rank
- Discuss application - share essays
- Research advisor, outreach program directors - not class instructors

Start Online Application: FastLane

Start Writing: Personal Statement and Research Proposal

Acquire Reference Letters
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intellectual Merit</th>
<th>Broader Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?</td>
<td>- How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- How well qualified is the proposer to conduct the project?</td>
<td>- How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?</td>
<td>- To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity?</td>
<td>- Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Is there sufficient access to resources?</td>
<td>- What may be the benefits to society of the proposed activity?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal, Relevant Background, Future Goals Statement</td>
<td>Graduate Research Plan Statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Why are you <strong>fascinated by your research area?</strong></td>
<td>- What <strong>issues in the scientific community</strong> are you most passionate about?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What examples of <strong>leadership skills</strong> and <strong>unique characteristics</strong> do you bring to your chosen field?</td>
<td>- Do you possess the <strong>technical knowledge and skills</strong> necessary for conducting this work- will you have sufficient mentoring and training to complete the study?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What <strong>personal and individual strengths</strong> do you have that make you a qualified applicant?</td>
<td>- Is this plan <strong>feasible</strong> for the allotted time and institutional resources?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- How will receiving the fellowship contribute to your <strong>career goals?</strong></td>
<td>- How will your research contribute to the “<strong>big picture</strong>” outside academia?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What are your <strong>applicable experiences?</strong></td>
<td>- How can you draft a plan using the guidelines presented in the essay instructions?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- How does the information in your Personal Statement address <strong>Intellectual Merit</strong> and <strong>Broader Impact</strong> criteria?</td>
<td>- How does your research address <strong>Intellectual Merit</strong> and <strong>Boarder Impact</strong> criteria?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notes on the NSF GRFP

- Number of times one can apply
  - **Undergraduate students** can apply before enrolling in graduate school
  - **Graduate students** are limited to one application - beginning of first year or beginning of second year
  - **Different evaluation for different groups**
  - Fast track **BS and MS** can apply once
  - Withdrawing before the deadline does not count as one application

- Follow font, size, format required | do not miss any application components
  - Avoid **automatic disqualification**

- Student can choose any graduate school and any program

- Annual reporting requirement follows
QUESTIONS?

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