• What?
  • Prestigious awards that typically provide:
    • Stipend
    • Tuition assistance
    • Networking/valuable opportunities

• Who (is eligible)?
  • Graduate degree seeking students in research-based degree programs (usually STEM)

• When (do you apply)?
  • Early

• Where (do you find opportunities)?
  • Internal to UCF
  • External

• How?
  • Apply!
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

• Highly prestigious
• Recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported STEM disciplines
• 3-year annual stipend of $37,000 + $16,000 cost of education allowance for tuition and fees
• Additional opportunities for internship and study abroad (GROW and INTERN)
• ~2500 awardees/year
NSF GRFP Eligibility

- U.S. citizens, nationals or permanent residents
- Senior undergrads and early-career graduate students
- Pursuing research-based MS and PhD
- Intend to enroll or be enrolled full-time in an eligible Field of Study in STEM or STEM education

NSF GRF Program Solicitation contains the official eligibility guidelines for the upcoming competition. All applicants are expected to read the NSF GRF Program Solicitation and understand the eligibility guidelines.
NSF GRFP Fields of Study

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

High Priority Research Areas:
- Advanced manufacturing
- Advanced wireless
- Artificial intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Climate research
- Microelectronics and Semiconductors
- Quantum information science
- Renewable energy
GRFP Features

• Flexible: choice of project, advisor & program

• Unrestrictive: Awarded to individual; no service requirement

• Portable: Any accredited U.S. institution

• At UCF, we allow scholars to use their remaining COE allowance for research related expenses and travel.
GRFP Application Components

Application submitted through **GRFP Module**

• Education, Work, and Other Experience
• Personal, Relevant Background and Future Goals Statement (3 pages)
• Graduate Research Plan Statement (2 pages)
• Three letters of reference
• Electronic transcripts

See [https://www.nsfgrfp.org/applicants/](https://www.nsfgrfp.org/applicants/) for specific details.
## NSF’s Merit Review Criteria

### Intellectual Merit
- Potential to advance knowledge
- Grades/G.P.A.
- Awards
- Test Scores
- Research Experience

### Broader Impact
- Potential impact of
  - The individual on society
  - Your research on society and why it’s important
- Societal benefits

Evidence of both can (and should) be found in all parts of the application. Per NSF, applicants should include headings for Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts in their statements.
GRFP Reference Letters

• Up to 5; top 3 ranked are chosen for review

• Student responsibility

• Ask your reference writers to discuss how you fulfill the merit review criteria

• Select your reference letter writers carefully (familiarity with you as a person is important)

• Share your statements
NSF GRFP Deadlines

• **Late July / Early August**: GRFP Application opens

• **Mid-Late October**: GRFP application deadline
  • Check website for specific deadline; differs by field of study

• **October**: GRFP application deadline for Reference letters
  • Note: Reference Letters Must Be Submitted by 5:00 pm (ET)

• **Early April**: GRFP Application results announced

• Deadline to accept fellowship usually **May 1**
Suggestions for Preparing a Competitive Application

• Start early! Read the current Solicitation and FAQ.

• Follow all directions.

• Describe your honors, experiences, presentations, and any publications (etc.) clearly for the reviewers.

• Select and confirm your reference letter writers and monitor receipt of their letters on the GRFP website.

• Your statements should be interesting and clear. Ask several colleagues to read and comment on drafts.
Suggestions for Preparing a Competitive Application

• Pay attention to NSF’s merit review criteria.

• Share your application materials and the merit review criteria with your reference letter writers.

• Ensure all applications materials address the merit review criteria.
INTERN Program

• INTERN provides professional development to NSF GRFP Fellows through **internships** developed in partnership with non-academic institutions, e.g., government labs, industry.

• Through INTERN, Fellows participate in mission-related, **collaborative research** under the guidance of host research mentors at federal facilities and national laboratories.

• INTERN enhances the Fellows' professional skills, professional networks, and preparation for a wide array of career options.
NSF GRFP Resources

• NSF GRFP Website: http://www.nsfgrfp.org/

• Applicant FAQs: http://www.nsfgrfp.org/applicants/faqs

• Additional Resources: http://www.nsfgrfp.org/resources

• INTERN: https://www.nsf.gov/eng/eec/intern.jsp
DOE Computational Science Graduate Fellowship

Benefits

• A yearly stipend of $45,000
• Payment of full tuition & required fees during the appointment period (at any accredited U.S. university)
• An annual professional development allowance
• Up to four years of total support, depending on renewal
• A12-practicum experience at one of 21 DOE national laboratories or sites, including access to DOE supercomputers

~25 awardees/year
DOE Computational Science Graduate Fellowship

• Eligibility:
  • Undergraduate seniors
  • New graduate students not yet started or in first year (see stipulations for others)
  • Specific fields of study include but are not limited to: Computer Science, Material Science, Mechanical Engineering, Physics, etc.

• How To Apply: https://www.krellinst.org/csgf/how-apply
  • Application open in fall
Other Awards

• DoD Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship for Service Program ($30K-46K/yr)
  • https://www.smartscholarship.org/smart

• Link Foundation Advanced Simulation & Training Fellowship ($34,000/yr)
  • https://www.linksim.org/

• NASEM Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship ($27,000/yr)
  • https://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/PGA_171962

• Google Scholarship Program
  • https://buildyourfuture.withgoogle.com/scholarships/

• National Defense Science & Engineering Graduate Fellowships ($38,400/yr)
  • https://ndseg.sysplus.com/

• NASA Graduate Fellowships ($50,000/yr, ~40K stipend)
  https://www.nasa.gov/stem/fellowships-scholarships/index.html
UCF Fellowships

- Submit a complete admission application by December 1 for the following fall semester
  - Some programs may have earlier deadlines

- Requires program nomination
  - Speak to your prospective program about their nomination process

- Requires full-time enrollment
  - Online only programs not eligible

https://graduate.ucf.edu/fellowships/

UCF Awards Over $2 Million in Fellowship Funding Each Year
Other UCF Funding

• Graduate Presentation Fellowships
  • Provides support to students representing UCF at professional meetings and conferences

• Open Access Publishing Funds
  • Provides support for article publishing charges for publishing in open access journals

• Doctoral Research Awards
  • Provides support for graduate students to engage in dissertation research

https://graduate.ucf.edu/other-funding-resources/
Additional Funding Resources: Databases

PIVOT

GRAPES

https://graduate.ucf.edu/external-funding/
As of 7/24/2024
According to PIVOT:

$118.71B
of funding is available!
Questions?

Contact us at

gradfellowship@ucf.edu

jennifer.Parham@ucf.edu