

**National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program
(GRFP)
Checklist**

NSF GRFP website: <https://www.nsfgrfp.org/>

Full NSF Guidelines: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf10_1/nsf10_1.pdf

Applications Deadlines:

November 15, 2010: *Interdisciplinary Fields of Study*

November 16, 2010: *Engineering*

November 18, 2010: *Mathematical Sciences; Computer and Information Sciences and Engineering; Chemistry; Physics and Astronomy*

November 19, 2010: *Social Sciences; Psychology; Geosciences; STEM Education and Learning*

November 22, 2010: *Life Sciences*

NOTE: All must be submitted electronically by 5:00 p.m. submitter's time

Letters of Reference Deadline:

Same as application deadline, submitted through FastLane

Questions about the Application Process for the Graduate Research Fellowship Program

should be directed to:

GRF Operations Center

(866) 673-4737; info@nsfgrfp.org

Application solicitation:

http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pims_id=6201&ods_key=nsf10604

Activity	Notes
Complete <i>Fastlane</i> Registration for Graduate Research Fellowship Program: http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/ Fastlane help desk: 1-800-673-6188 or fastlane@nsf.gov	
Transcripts for EVERY institution you have listed in application module (complete except for fall 2010; must arrive by field of study deadline listed above): GRF Operations Center Suite T-50 1818 N Street, N.W. Suite 600 Washington, DC 20036-2479 Phone: 866-NSF-GRFP (866-673-4737)	
GRE scores are no longer accepted	

<p>Three Reference Letters writers should use letterhead and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name and title of reference writer • Representative Department, and Institution or Organization • Details describing nature of relationship with applicant • Comments on applicant’s potential and prior research experiences • Statements about applicant’s proposed research • Other info that evaluates the applicant based on NSF Merit Review Criteria of Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts <p>Submitting Reference Letters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter name and email address of potential reference letter writers in the electronic application form a.s.a.p. • Inform each letter writer that you have entered their name/email address. • When letter writer logs-in to FastLane, a prompt will appear to enter your letter of reference. • Check FastLane account to ensure a green dot is visible, verifying letter writer has uploaded their letter. • Letters must be received by application deadline. 	
<p>Three Essays (12 pt. Times New Roman font/1” margins/8/5 X 11 paper) Space limitation includes references, citations, charts, figures and images. Submit within the electronic application format.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>Personal Statement</u> (2 pages single spaced or greater) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Why are you fascinated by your research area? b. What examples of leadership skills and unique characteristics do you bring to your chosen field? c. What personal and individual strengths do you have that make you a qualified applicant? d. How will receiving the fellowship contribute to your career goals? 2) <u>Previous Research Experience</u> (2 pages single spaced or greater) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are all of your applicable experiences? b. For each experience, what were the key questions, methodology, findings, and conclusions? c. Did you work in a team and/or independently? d. How did you assist in the analysis of results? 3) <u>Proposed Plan of Research</u> (2 pages single spaced or greater) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What issues in the scientific community are you most passionate about? b. Do you possess the technical knowledge and skills necessary for conducting this work, or will you have sufficient mentoring and training to complete the study? c. Is this plan feasible for the allotted time and institutional resources? d. How will my research contribute to the "big picture" outside the academic context? e. How can I draft a plan using the specified research proposal format? 	

Address the following **evaluation criteria** questions whenever possible in essay, narrative and letters of reference:

1) **Intellectual Merit**

- a. How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?
- b. How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? (If appropriate, the reviewer will comment on the quality of prior work.)
- c. To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
- d. How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity?
- e. Is there sufficient access to resources?

2) **Broader Impacts*** – Activities and projects that:

- a. How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training and learning?
- b. How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc)?
- c. To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships?
- d. Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding?
- e. What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

***Examples of Broader Impacts Activities:**

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2002/nsf022/bicexamples.pdf>