



APPLYING TO THE

# NSF GRFP

[HTTPS://WWW.NSFGFRP.ORG/](https://www.nsfgrfp.org/)

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
GRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM FELLOWSHIP

*"As the oldest graduate fellowship of its kind, the GRFP has a long history of selecting recipients who achieve high levels of success in their future academic and professional careers. The reputation of the GRFP follows recipients and often helps them become life-long leaders that contribute significantly to both scientific innovation and teaching. Past fellows include numerous Nobel Prize winners, former U.S. Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu, Google founder, Sergey Brin and Freakonomics co-author, Steven Levitt." - from NSF website*

An aerial photograph of the North Carolina State University campus. In the foreground, the tall, white, Gothic-style Bell Tower stands prominently. Behind it, the large, multi-story SAS Hall is visible, characterized by its red brick and multiple gabled roofs. The surrounding area includes green lawns and other campus buildings.

# WHAT IS THE NSF GRFP?

## ABOUT

The National Science Foundation 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.

## GOALS OF THE PROGRAM

- Support early-career individuals with the demonstrated potential to be high achieving scientists and engineers
- Broaden participation in STEM of underrepresented groups: women, minority, persons with disabilities and veterans

## FUNDING

- 3 years of support
- Annual stipend of \$34,000 along with a \$12,000 cost of education allowance for tuition and fees (paid to the institution)

You can find a listing of other external fellowships here: <https://grad.ncsu.edu/students/fellowships-and-grants/national/nationally-competitive-graduate-fellowships/>

*Photo Credits:*

Page 1 - <https://visit.ncsu.edu/main-campus/sas-hall/>

Page 2 - <https://campaign.ncsu.edu/featured-series/a-legend-in-stone/>

## WHY SHOULD YOU APPLY?

Applying for the NSF GRFP (or any fellowship) requires work on your part. So why might you consider applying?

- The department TA stipend is currently \$30,011 per year compared to \$34,000 per year as an NSF GRFP fellow.
- Being a TA is 20 hours of work per week. NSF GRFP recipients receive this higher stipend without TA responsibilities so that fellows can focus on research and training.
- It's an honor and great recognition!

## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Applicant must be a US Citizen, National, or Permanent Resident.

### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Undergraduates or bachelor's degree holders who have never enrolled in a degree-granting graduate program, and who will be prepared to attend graduate school in the fall of the award year
- Graduate students who have not completed more than one academic year of a graduate program in an eligible field of study. Graduate students apply either first year or beginning of second year (the deadline is typically in late October)

## NEXT STEPS

If you're interested in applying, please watch the following webinar to get more details about the NSF GRFP as well as hear advice about applying from some successful applicants from statistics programs.

- NSF webinar about the GRFP (Fall 2020):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25mRsqh5FoA&feature=youtu.be>
- Slides (host):  
<https://www.amstat.org/asa/files/pdfs/POL-2020-09-14-ASA-MSPRF-GRFP.pdf>
- Slides (Panelists):  
<https://www.amstat.org/asa/files/pdfs/POL-NSFFellowshipsPresentations.pdf>

As the application requires a 2 page research plan statement, you'll want to identify a faculty member who's research interests align with yours. In other words, you'll likely want to start identifying a potential advisor during your first year. This faculty member can help you formulate a research plan.

The research plan needs to have both an intellectual merit and broader impacts component. Faculty have experience in obtaining NSF funding and can help you map your ideas and vision onto these standard NSF criteria. As stated earlier, this is going to take some work and initiative on your part, so you'll want to start early but the department wants you to be successful and wants to help you put forth the best version of your proposed vision!

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- <https://www.nsfgrfp.org/applicants/tips>
- <https://www.alexhunterlang.com/nsf-fellowship>
- <https://stattrak.amstat.org/2013/10/01/fellowship-experience/>

