NATIONAL GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS 101:
AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES AND MECHANICS
OF THE APPLICATIONS

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(with ideas from WSU’s Hannah Merley)

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

• Fellowship applicant (and frequent workshop attendee)
• Fellowship winner (NDSEG, Ford, UNH)
• Fellowship reviewer
• Letter of recommendation writer
• Advisor of fellowship winners
WHY?

- Experience
- Prestige
- Get your snowball started
- Extra funding
- Freedom

Funding Sources

- Federal
- Foundations
- Professional Associations
- Business/Industry
- State/Local
New Graduate Student Fellowships (NSF, NDSEG, Ford)

Dissertation Fellowships (Ford, institutional)

Travel Grants
Research Funding Grants
Conference Grants
Awards

Postdoctoral (Ford, NSF)

(SOME) AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES
**NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (GRFP)**

- “The NSF GRFP recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported STEM disciplines who are pursuing research-based Master’s and doctoral degrees at accredited US institutions.”
- $34,000/yr and $12,000 tuition allowance for up to 3 years
- Individuals who have never previously applied to GRFP while enrolled in a graduate degree program. 1st or 2nd year grad, undergrad.
- Deadline: October 21-25th
- 1,600 awards per year
- Program web site: [https://www.nsfgrfp.org/](https://www.nsfgrfp.org/)

**FORD FOUNDATION PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP**

- “The FF seeks to increase the diversity of the nation’s college and university faculties by increasing their ethnic and racial diversity, maximize the educational benefits of diversity, and increase the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students”.
- $24,000/yr and paid attendance to the conference of Ford Fellows
- Individuals committed to a career in teaching and research at the college level.
- Individuals who as of fall 2020 require a minimum of 3 years to complete their PhD
- More info: [http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/PGA_171962](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/PGA_171962)
- Deadline: December 17
- 70 awards per year
NATIONAL DEFENSE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING GRADUATE (NDSEG) FELLOWSHIP

• “The NDSEG Fellowship Program is a competitive fellowship that is awarded to U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, and U.S. dual citizens who intend to pursue a Doctoral degree aligned to the DoD services Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs) in research and development at a U.S. institution of their choice.”
• $38,400/yr + $5,000 for travel + tuition, fees and health insurance
• Individuals in their final year of undergrad studies through the 2nd year of PhD
• Program web site: https://ndseg.sysplus.com/NDSEG/About/
• Deadline: December 6
• 500 awards per year

COMMON APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

• Research Statements
• Personal Statements
• Letters of Recommendation
• GRE scores
• Application Forms
• Transcripts
• CVs
1. GET ORGANIZED

- Build a spreadsheet of opportunities
- Make a checklist
- Contact your references
- Request transcripts
- Make GRE appointment
- Build a timeline
Break Down Tasks

Due Date: December 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Task Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1</td>
<td>Update Resume</td>
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<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>Identify References</td>
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<td>Draft Personal Statement</td>
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<td>Sept. 30</td>
<td>Finalize Personal Statement</td>
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<td>Send Statement to References</td>
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<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>Identify Writing Sample</td>
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<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>Confirm reference letters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>Start assembling package</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Submit application (by mail)</td>
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For Each Funding Opportunity

2. IDENTIFY RESOURCES

- Recommendation letter writers
- Proof-readers
- UPRM Writing Center
- GRIC
- Personal network
3. DOUBLE CHECK REQUIREMENTS

- US citizenship status
- Academic level
- Eligible institutions
- Deadline date & time!!!
- Page limits

4. DO YOUR HOMEWORK

- Read previously-funded applications
- Understand the funders vision and mission
5. AVOID

- Poor grammar spelling
- Being boring
- Incomplete application

MORE RESOURCES

- http://pfforphds.com/fellowship-application/
- https://grad.ncsu.edu/students/fellowships-and-grants/national/nationally-competitive-graduate-fellowships/
- https://www.gograd.org/financial-aid/scholarships/fellowships/
- GOOGLE!!!!