



Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

Application Guidelines

BEFORE YOU START:

Check the brief guidelines below. See [Solicitation](#) for official requirements. Applications not meeting official requirements in the GRFP Solicitation will

NOT BE REVIEWED.

ELIGIBILITY:

Applicant: All rules apply

You	US citizen, US permanent resident, or US national
Proposed Grad Institution	Full-time enrollment beginning Fall 2025 at accredited US academic institution in the US, its territories, possessions, and Puerto Rico. NO FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS.
Approved Field of Study	Check Approved Fields of Study (in Solicitation Appendix). Ineligible fields of study include disease-oriented, biomedical, health, counseling, and others.
Approved Degree Program	Research-based STEM Master's and Doctoral degrees. No professional or joint professional degrees (e.g., MD, MPH, MBA, JD, DDS, DVM, MSW, MD/PhD, JD/PhD)

Academic Level: Only one level can apply

Applicants can apply multiple times as Level 1 OR 4. Applicants can apply once as Level 2 or 3.

Academic Level	Description	Level
Undergraduate Student	Current senior; never enrolled in a graduate degree program, ready to enroll full-time by Fall 2025.	Level 1
Not Enrolled: Bachelor's Degree, no graduate degree	Completed a Bachelor's degree; never enrolled in a graduate program; ready to enroll full-time by Fall 2025	Level 1
Joint Bachelor's-Master's Student	Currently enrolled in a joint Bachelor's-Master's program; applicants enrolled in a Bachelor's-Master's program are considered Graduate Students. Concurrent enrollment in BS/MS program and both degrees awarded at the same time as indicated on the transcript.	Level 2
Graduate Student: First Year	Current first-year graduate student in eligible Field of Study at a US academic institution	Level 2
Graduate Student: Matriculated Directly from Joint Bachelor's-Master's Program	Joint Bachelor's-Master's degree holders who progressed to a doctoral program the semester following award of joint degree (summer break acceptable), must apply as first-year doctoral students (Level 2) and may not have previously applied	Level 3
Graduate Student: Second Year	No more than one academic year of graduate study in eligible Field of Study at US academic institution (Fall 2023 or later start date)	Level 3
Not Enrolled: Returning Graduate Student	Holds a Master's degree; not currently enrolled in graduate school AND has not enrolled in graduate school since Fall 2022. Does not hold a terminal (doctoral) degree.	Level 4

APPLICATION PREPARATION:**Format compliance: All rules apply**

Paper size	8.5"x11"
Font	Times New Roman for all text, Cambria Math font for equations, and Symbol font for non-alphabetic characters (it is recommended that equations and symbols be inserted as an image), no smaller than 11-pt, except text that is part of an image
Spacing	No less than single spacing (approximately 6 lines per inch)
Margins	1" margins on all sides, no text inside 1" margins (no header, footer, or page number)
Templates	See Personal Statement template , Graduate Research Plan template

BEFORE YOU SUBMIT Application: All steps apply

Personal Profile	Fill in all required fields.
Personal Statement	3 pages (PDF, see Personal Statement template)
Graduate Research Plan	2 pages, including references (PDF, see Graduate Research Plan template)
Transcripts	From ALL degree institutions (class schedule from current institution). Must include at least one transcript. Transcripts must not be encrypted.
Reference Letters	Two letters are required for application submission.
Deadlines	NO extensions or exceptions. NO materials accepted by email.
CLICK Sign and Submit	Check for confirmation email. Check View Application Package Status to confirm receipt at NSF before 5:00 p.m. Local Time of applicant's mailing address.
Download your application	You're done!

ONLY COMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL **NOT BE REVIEWED.**

National Science Foundation

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[Privacy and Security](#)