

Exploring Graduate School Funding

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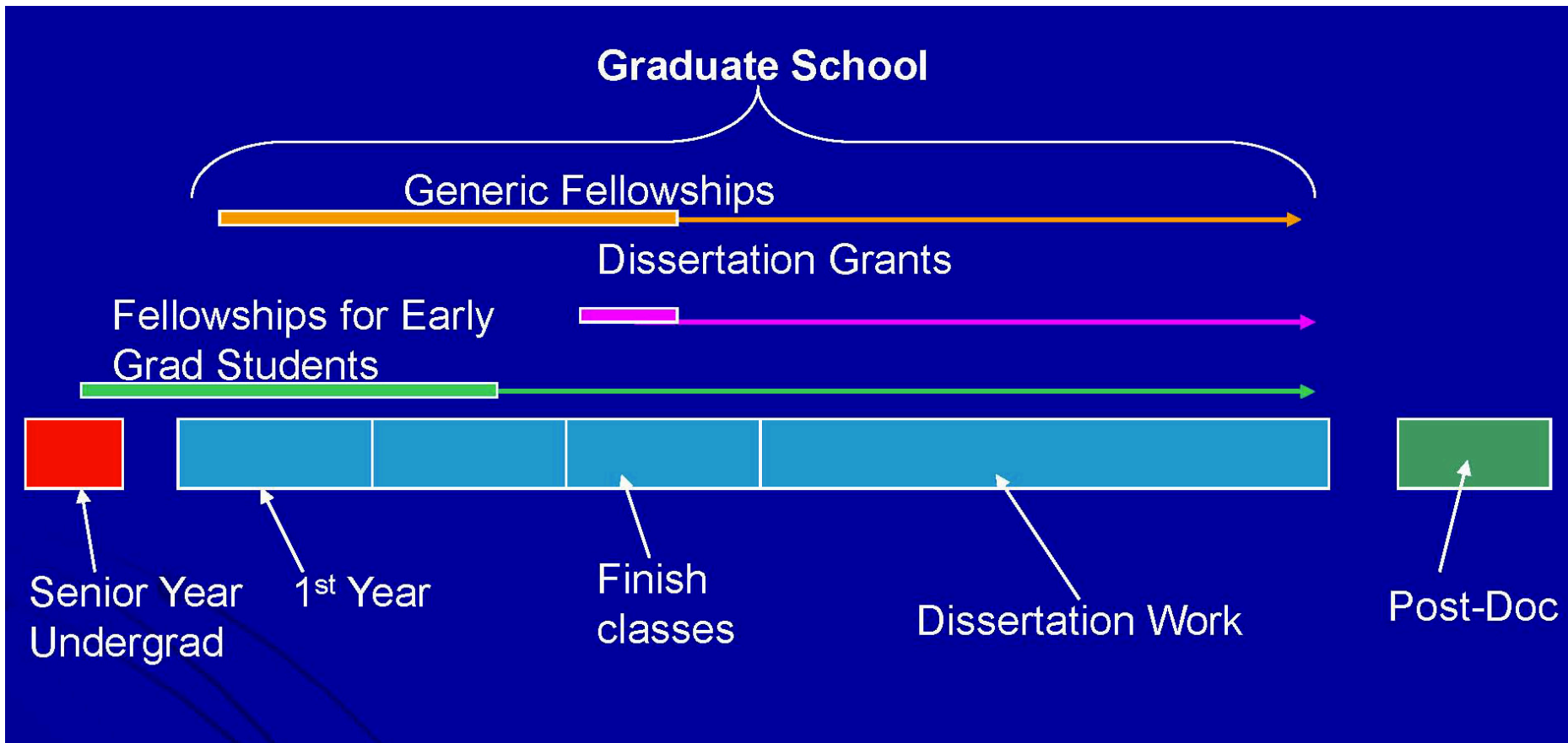


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Session Overview

- Graduate School Funding Landscape
 - Common Phrases and Acronyms
 - Who are the Major Players?
- Application Overview
- Financing Graduate Education
- Accepting Offers

Overview of Funding Support



Overview of Funding Support

- Doctoral study should be supported in STEM disciplines and many others
- Master's study can be supported
- Graduate Assistantships should include
 - A stipend
 - Tuition waiver
 - Health insurance
 - Teaching (TA) or Research (RA) duties
- Professional study is usually not supported

Types of Graduate Funding

Intramural Fellowships

- University Based
- Not portable
- Can be competitive
- Requires specific qualifications

Assistantships

- Research Assistantship
- Teaching Assistantship
- Corporate/Industrial Internships

Extramural Fellowships

- Made by various agencies
- Portable
- Funding levels vary
- Complex and time consuming
- Deadlines vary

Other Types of Funding

- Loans
 - Need Based
 - Institutional vs. private
- Grant
- Work study
- Personal Resources

Funding Examples: Tulane



Teaching Assistantship:

- Stipend of \$20,680 per academic year
- Full tuition waiver

<http://tulane.edu/sse/eebio/academics>

Financial Support

- Fellowships or Traineeships
 - Awarded on the basis of academic merit
 - Sometimes portable
 - Usually provides payment of tuition and stipend
 - Diversity-based fellowships
 - Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships
 - Various disciplines (e.g. American Studies, Geography, History, Chemistry, Economics, Ethnic Studies, Sociology)
 - Annual Stipend: \$20,000 (3-years of support)
 - <http://www.national-academies.org/fellowships>
 - Other portable fellowships (NSF)
 - Other funding sources (database, library)

Mechanics of Application

- Paper Application or Online (FastLane, etc).
- Academic Transcripts (official/unofficial)
- Statement of Purpose
- Research Proposal
- Letters of Recommendation from Faculty
- Supplemental Materials
- Detail Work/Volunteer Experiences
- GRE or Other Exams

Create an Action Plan with Deadlines

- Deadline for completing required forms.
- Deadline for obtaining reference letters.
Ask at least a month in advance!
- Continue to work backward, defining **all key tasks & deadlines.**

Create an Action Plan with Deadlines

- Start with funder's **RECEIPT** deadline, including time zone. **Place this on the last line and work backward (toward the top of the list.)**
- Date you must place in mail, if hard copy required.
- Date to make copies, if necessary. If time permits, reread one last time!
- Deadline for last major revision. (Ask your mentor how much “turn around time” they would like to give you feedback.)

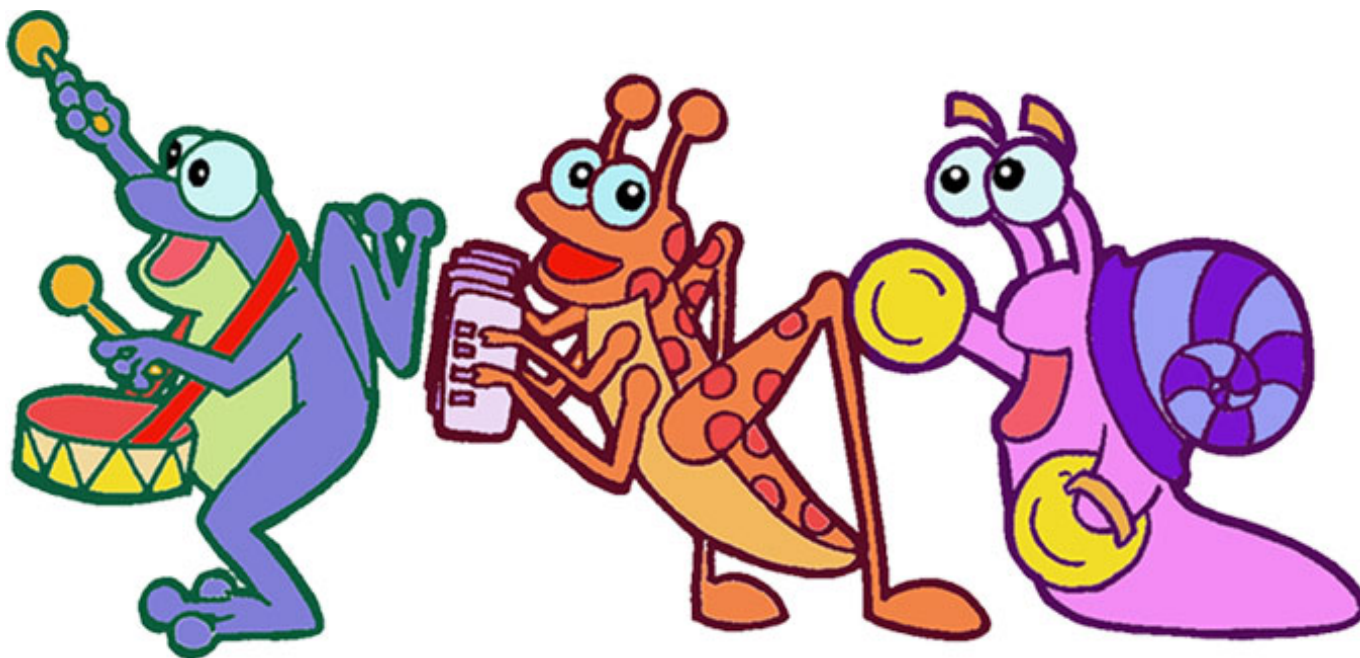
Organization & Management

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Organization & Management

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The Fiesta Trio



Organization & Management

Letters of Recommendations

Recommendation Packet:

- **Cover letter and checklist**
- **CV or resume**
- **Course History & paper reminder**
- **Statement draft**
- **Instructions for submission, including clear deadlines**
- **Forms, envelopes, postage**

Ford Foundation Fellowship

FORD FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
Fellowships Office

- Annual stipend: \$20,000
- Award to the institution in lieu of tuition and fees: \$2,000
- Funding for professional conference

Ford Criteria for Selection

- Evidence of superior academic achievement
- Promise of continuing achievement as scholar/teacher
- Sustained personal engagement with communities that are underrepresented in the academy
- Likelihood of using the diversity of human experience as an educational resource in teaching and scholarship
- Membership in one or more of the following groups whose underrepresentation in the professoriate



National Science Foundation

NSF GRFP - Provides 3 years of support
(payable over 5 years)

Award value: \$132,000

- **\$32,000 stipend per year** *paid to student*

Fellowship travels with you to the US university of your choice.

- **\$12,000 “educational allowance”**
paid to institution

The oldest graduate fellowship of its kind (1952), the GRFP is a highly prestigious, nationally-competitive fellowship. To date, more than 50,000 fellowships have been awarded.

“Typical” Eligibility

1. Citizenship

- US citizen, national, or permanent resident

2. Degree requirements*

- will pursue a research-based graduate degree
- college senior
- began graduate studies fall 2015 or fall 2016 (no more than 1 year of credits)

3. Field of study*

- Must be an NSF-supported field



*Note: Verify eligibility in the upcoming official NSF solicitation.



GRFP Goals

“... to select, recognize, and financially support individuals early in their careers with the demonstrated potential to be high achieving scientists and engineers, and to broaden participation in science and engineering of under-represented groups, including women, minorities, and persons with disabilities. GRFP is a critical program in NSF's overall strategy in developing the globally-engaged workforce necessary to ensure the Nation's leadership in advancing science and engineering research and innovation.

Source: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2011/nsf11582/nsf11582.htm>

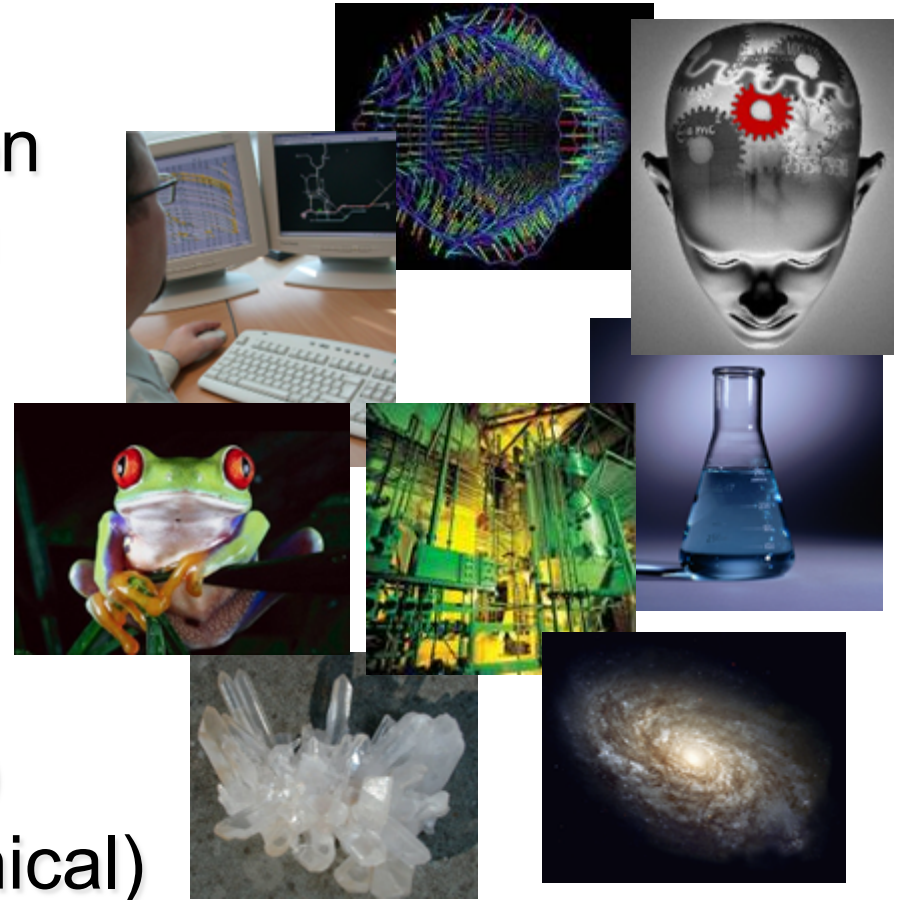


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National Science Foundation GRFP

Supported Fields

- Chemistry
- Computer and Information Science and Engineering
- Engineering
- Geosciences
- Life Sciences
- Mathematical Sciences
- Physics and Astronomy
- Psychology (non-clinical)
- Social Sciences (non-clinical)



NSF GRFP: Application Criteria

Intellectual Merit:

- Academic record
- Previous research experience
- Proposed plan of research
- Choice of and relevance of references
- Appropriateness of proposed graduate institution

NSF GRFP Criteria Application:

Broader Impact:

- How both you and your research will impact the world
- Your background, including personal, professional and educational experiences
- Additional information provided by references

Here's what typically happens



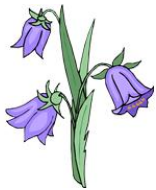
AUG: competition opens

NOV: application deadlines



JAN-FEB: 800+ panelists convene

- reviewers are disciplinary experts
- each application gets 2-3 reviews



MAR-APR: GRFP offers awards
Fellows accept or decline



SUMMER - FALL: Commence grad studies

Pending federal funding, NSF GRFP cycle repeats annually

Accepting Funding Offers



Council of Graduate Schools

Resolution Regarding Graduate Scholars, Fellows, Trainees and Assistants

Acceptance of an offer of financial support *(such as a graduate scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, or assistantship) for the next academic year by a prospective or enrolled graduate student completes an agreement that both student and graduate school expect to honor. In that context, the conditions affecting such offers and their acceptance must be defined carefully and understood by all parties.

Students are under no obligation to respond to offers of financial support prior to April 15; earlier deadlines for acceptance of such offers violate the intent of this Resolution. In those instances in which a student accepts an offer before April 15, and subsequently desires to withdraw that acceptance, the student may submit in writing a resignation of the appointment at any time through April 15. However, an acceptance given or left in force after April 15 commits the student not to accept another offer without first obtaining a written release from the institution to which a commitment has been made. Similarly, an offer by an institution after April 15 is conditional on presentation by the student of the written release from any previously accepted offer. It is further agreed by the institutions and organizations subscribing to the above Resolution that a copy of this Resolution or a link to the URL should accompany every scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, and assistantship offer.

Accepting Funding Offers



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Final Application Process Advice

- Be Informed – Plan Ahead!
- Be On Time – Deadlines Matter!
- Be Accurate – Get it Right!
- Be Assertive – Ask Questions!
- Be Collaborative – Find a Mentor!
- Be Persistent – Apply Again!
- Be Patient – Don't Obsess; Be kind to yourself!

For more information...

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