NSF Grants & Fellowships

Dr. Adrienne P. Stephenson, Director
Dr. Carson Bay, Assistant Director
Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards (OGFA)

THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY | THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Overview

- Types of NSF Grants & Fellowships

- Applying for NSF Grants & Fellowships
  - Application Checklist
  - Necessary materials
  - Important considerations
  - Timelines
  - Budgets (if applicable)

- On-Campus Resources for NSF Grant Applications

NSF Graduate Student Awards

- **NSF GRFP** (Graduate Research Fellowship Program) ⟵
- **NSF CA-DDRIG** (Cultural Anthropology) ⟵
- **NSF LSS-DDRIG** (Law & Social Sciences)
- **NSF Ling-DDRI** (Linguistics)
- **NSF DEL-DDRIG** (Documenting Endangered Languages)
- **NSF Arch-DDRI** (Archaeology)
- **NSF BA-DDRIG** (Biological Anthropology)
- **NSF DMS Internship** (Mathematics)
- **NSF Soc-DDRI** (Sociology)
- **NSF GSS-DDRI** (Geography & Spatial Sciences)
- **NSF PS-DDRIG** (Political Science)
- **NSF MMS-DDRI** (Methodology, Measurement, & Statistics)
- **NSF STS-DDRIG** (Science, Technology, & Society)
- **NSF SciSIP-DDRIG** (Science of Science and Innovation Policy)

Applying for NSF Awards

Application Checklist:

- ✓ Draft application materials: personal statement, proposal and budget

- ✓ Identify additional sets of eyes to review application materials

- ✓ Sign up for an NSF ID

- ✓ Start an application in the FastLane portal

- ✓ Give access to appropriate person(s) in the Sponsored Project Office (SPO)

- ✓ Complete/submit application to Sponsored Research Administration (SRA)

Necessary Materials

NSF GRFP applications require …

- **FastLane Application**
  - Personal Information
  - Former Education
  - Work/Other Experience
  - Electronic Transcripts
  - Proposed Field of Study
  - Proposed Graduate Program/School
  - Names & Emails of Three Reference Writers (references have format requirements)
  - <u>Statement of Personal, Relevant Background & Future Goals</u> (3 pages max)
  - <u>Statement of Graduate Research Plan</u> (2 pages max, incl. references, images, charts) (**Both** statements should address 1) Intellectual Merit and 2) Broader Impacts under separate headings)
  - **<u>Do not</u> send manuscripts, resumes, medical reports, news clippings, etc.**

Necessary Materials

NSF DD(R)IG applications usually require …

- **Cover Sheet –** including a project title, information on involved parties (PIs, co-PIs), NSF organizational unit, human subjects designation
- **Project Summary** – including 1) a project <u>overview</u>, 2) a statement of <u>intellectual merit</u>, and 3) a statement of your activity's <u>broader impacts</u>
- **Project Description** – including all items-to-be-addressed as outlined in the program solicitation
- **References Cited** – a short bibliography linked to the project description
- **Biographical Sketches** – short bios of PI and/or co-PI
- **Research Schedule** – included precise dates of when funds are needed
- **Project Budget** – including justification, indirect costs, and travel
- **Current/Pending Support Statement** – of PI and co-PI, if applicable
- **Facilities/Equipment/Resources Statement** – if applicable
- **Supplementary Documentation** – (often optional) a limited number of pages work of technical illustrations, maps, or sample survey questions
- **PI Letter** – a signed letter of support from your PI (template provided in solicitation)

Important Considerations

Things to consider when planning <u>NSF GRFP</u> applications:

- **Eligibility**
  - Applicants can apply <u>only once</u> as graduate students <u>only in year one or two</u>
  - Applicants must be U.S. citizens

- **Timing**
  - Is <u>now</u> the right time in your career to apply to the NSF GRFP?
  - Different disciplines have <u>different deadlines</u> within the same week in late October

- **Application Formatting**
  - 8.5" x 11" pages, 12-pt Times New Roman font, 1" margins all sides
  - 10-pt Times New Roman font for references, footnotes, figure captions
  - Single-spaced (approx. 5 lines per inch) or greater (i.e., no "12-pt" line spacing)

Important Considerations

Things to consider when planning NSF DD(R)IG applications:

- **Eligibility**
  - Applicants apply <u>via their IHE</u> (FSU) <u>through their PIs</u> (as co-PIs)
  - Make sure your particular (sub)discipline is eligible for any given NSF grant

- **Timing**
  - Is now the right time in your graduate career to apply for this NSF grant?
  - Does your grant accept applications at multiple points throughout the year?

- **Specifics**
  - Does your proposal require Human Subjects (IRB) approval?
  - Some programs note <u>special review criteria</u> to be addressed in application:
    - "As described in the proposal, what is the expected larger-scope, longer-term significance of the project if the project is conducted successfully? What is the likelihood that the project will be conducted successfully?" (example from Geography & Spatial Sciences)

Research Timeline

Things to consider when constructing your research schedule:

- Is it sufficient for the completion of your research? Is it <u>realistic</u>?

- Is it too much time for your specific project? Is it <u>exaggerated</u>?

- Is it specific, detailed, and orderly? Is it <u>organized</u>?

- Is it clear and specifically linked to your project steps? Is it <u>intelligible</u>?

Application Timeline

Things to consider when planning your application:

- NSF deadlines are firm and usually end at 5:00 PM EST on a given day.

- FSU Sponsored Research Administration <u>must</u> receive your application in full <u>at least three days</u> before the stated NSF deadline.

- Your application may be submitted by SRA through your research advisor. In this case, both parties need access to your FastLane application first thing.

- If Human Subjects Approval is needed, the application process needs to be <u>started</u> before you submit your application (pending, approved, exempted).

Budget

Things to know about your project budget:

- What are the total limits on <u>direct</u> and <u>indirect</u> costs?

- What constitute valid research expenses for your target grant mechanism?

- Is cost-sharing allowed? (If not, do <u>not</u> mention other funding sources)

- How should unpaid collaborators appear on the budget?

- How does NSF define terms like "expensive" and "modest"

Intellectual Merit: What it means to NSF

1. "What is the potential for the proposed *research* to advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?"

2. "To what extent does the proposed *research* suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?"

3. "Is the plan for carrying out the *research* well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?"

4. "How well-qualified is the individual, team, or organization to conduct this *research*?"

5. "Are there adequate resources available to the PI – either at the home organization or through collaborations – to carry out the proposed *research*?"

Broader Impacts: What it means to NSF

1. "What is the potential for the proposed *activity, program, or initiative* to benefit society or advance desired social outcomes?"

2. "To what extent does the proposed *activity, program, or initiative* suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?"

3. "Is the plan for *establishing* the *activity, program, or initiative* well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?"

4. "How well-qualified is the individual, team, or organization to *implement* this *activity, program, or initiative*?"

5. "Are there adequate resources available to the PI – either at the home organization or through collaborations – to carry out the proposed *activity, program, or initiative*?"

NSF @ FSU

Recent NSF Graduate Fellowship Recipients

2018

- Mary Duffy (Psychology – NSF-GRFP)
- Mysia Dye (Biological Science – NSF-GRFP)
- Jessie Mutz (Biological Science – NSF GROW)

2017

- Megan Behnke (EOAS – NSF-GRFP)
- Louis Colling (Molecular Biophysics – NSF-GRFP)
- Melissa Davis (Engineering – NSF-GRFP)
- Patrick Eastham (Mathematics – NSF-GRFP)
- Joseph Landy (Biological Science – NSF-DDIG)

Are you next?!

NSF @ FSU - Resources

- **Office of Graduate Fellowships & Awards (OGFA)** – Helpful for drafting/revising materials, strategizing, and networking

- **Sponsored Research Administration (SRA)** – The go-to on-campus resource for NSF grant (DDIG) application submission support

- **Faculty** – a critical resource for drafting compelling proposals that are relevant and reasonable within your discipline

- **Departmental Support** – Most departments have a grants manager or office administrator who assists in grant applications, analysis, and compliance

- **Peers** – a useful resource for checking the *clarity* of your proposal (and personal statement, if applicable)

Sponsored Research Administration (SRA)

FSU's Office of Sponsored Research Administration (SRA) handles all aspects of NSF grant proposals. They serve as the Sponsored Project Office (SPO) for your application. Your PI will also work with them to submit the grant proposal on your behalf.

- See the SRA website for the types of Resources & Training available
- Request on-site training and guidance
- Access a number of forms needed to complete your application on their website.
- SRA can provide assistance with NSF policy questions and with reading the PAPPG

Located 847 Traditions Way

Contacts for Grants Administrators assigned to particular colleges/departments can be found on SRA website. For example:

Laura Schaecher (Grants Officer)
(850) 644-8676 – lschaecher@fsu.edu
Colleges of Business, Education, Nursing Depts of Religion, Scientific Computing

Susan Fell (Grants Officer)
(850) 645-2172 – sfell@fsu.edu
Colleges of Fine Arts, Human Sciences Depts of English, Classics, Psychology ALL NSF GRFP Applications

James Dufoe (Grants Officer)
(850) 644-1057 – jdufoe@fsu.edu
College of Social Sciences & Public Policy

Dale Meeks (Grants Officer)
(850) 644-8662 dmeeks2@fsu.edu
Depts of Chemistry, Mathematics, Computer Science, EOAS

Catherine Stresing (Grants Officer)
(850) 645-0051 – cstresing@fsu.edu
College of Communication & Information

Jan James (Grants Manager)
(850) 644-8663 – jjames@fsu.edu
Colleges of Medicine, Social Work

Rick Wagner (Grants Officer)
(850) 410-6141 – rjwagner@fsu.edu
College of Engineering

National Science Foundation (NSF)

The National Science Foundation has numerous resources that can be of help to applicants or potential applicants. Contact numbers and email addresses are often program-specific.

- **General NSF Information**
  General Information: +1 (703) 292-5111 / TDD (for the hearing-impaired) +1 (703) 292-5090
  Publications/Forms Request: nsfpubs@nsf.gov or +1 (703) 292-7827

- EXAMPLE: **NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Operations Center**
  +1 (866) 673-4737 / International: +1 (202) 331-3542 / info@nsfgrfp.org

- EXAMPLE: **NSF Geography & Spatial Sciences Program**
  Antoinette WinklerPrins (Program Director) – +1 (703) 292-7266 / anwinkle@nsf.gov
  Jacqueline Vadjunec (Program Director) - +1 (703) 292-7064 / jmvadjun@nsf.gov
  Cori Jacildone (Program Specialist) - +1 (703) 292-8740 / cjacildo@nsf.gov

- **Program Officers, Directors, and Specialists will be listed with phone numbers and email addresses <u>on the current program solicitation</u>.**

Contact Information

The Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards
Honors, Scholars, Fellows House
127 Honors Way

ogfa-info@fsu.edu
ogfa.fsu.edu
850-645-0850

@ogfafsu   /ogfafsu