NSF
Graduate Research Fellowship Program for the Social Sciences

April 15, 2016

Kate Lorenz, Research Development Specialist
Institute for Policy & Social Research
What is IPSR?

• Research center for social sciences & policy
• Home to eight research centers
  » Center for Science, Tech. & Econ. Policy
  » Center for the Study of Injustice
  » Center for Environmental Policy
  » Center for Research on Global Change
  » Center for Indigenous Research, Sci. & Tech.
  » Surveillance Studies Research Center
  » Center for the Study of the U.S. Military
  » Center for Migration Research
• Pre-award, post-award, data services, graduate research initiatives
NSF GRF Overview

• oldest graduate fellowship of its kind

• very prestigious

• past fellows include:
  » Nobel Prize recipients
  » Steven Chu, former U.S. Secretary of Energy
  » Maxine Frank Singer, DNA researcher
  » Sergey Brin, Google co-founder
  » Steven Levitt, economist and co-author of *Freakonomics*
Purpose

• support students pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees in STEM

• provide opportunities for international research and professional development

• “Fellows will become knowledge experts who can contribute to research, teaching, and innovations in science and engineering.”
Fields of Study

- Archeology
- Biological/Cultural Anthropology
- Decision making & Risk Analysis
- Economics
- Geography
- History/Philosophy of Science
- Int’l Relations
- Law & Social Sciences
- Linguistics
- Linguistic Anthropology
- Medical Anthropology
- Political Science
- Public Policy
- Science Policy
- Sociology
- Urban/Regional Planning
- “Other”
Interdisciplinary Research

• NSF welcomes applications for interdisciplinary programs

• Defined as: “a mode of research … that integrates information, data, … and/or theories from two or more disciplines … to advance fundamental understanding or to solve problems” that fall beyond a single discipline or research area.
Eligibility

- must be a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident by application deadline

- must meet degree requirements
  » see next slide

- must be in eligible field of study
  » Ineligible: Practice-oriented programs; joint professional degree-science programs (MD/PhD, JD/PhD); clinical programs (patient-oriented research); research with disease-related goals
Degree Requirements

• must be ready to begin graduate study and research

• less than 12 months of previous full-time graduate study or 24 hours of part-time (36 on quarter)

• typically eligible:
  » during senior year
  » after graduating and prior to grad school
  » during 1st year of grad school
  » first semester of 2nd year of grad school
Timing

- 2015 deadline for social science was Oct. 26
- begin work on proposal six months ahead
- decision takes six months from submission
- fellowship funds three years (usable over a five-year period)
- you can only apply once during grad school; can also apply as senior undergraduate
What does it cover?

• $46,000 award to institution
  » $34,000 annual stipend ($$$)
  » $12,000 cost-of-education allowance

• institution is responsible for excess education costs

• access to cyberinfrastructure resources
  » supercomputers!
  » also for honorable mention
What’s required?

- personal info, education/experience, grad school info
- background, future goals statement (3 pp.)
- graduate research plan statement (2 pp.)
- transcripts
- three reference letters (usually due one week after application deadline)
What makes you competitive?

- **Intellectual Merit**
  » What is the potential to advance and potentially transform the frontiers of knowledge, your field?

- **Broader Impacts**
  » What is the potential societal benefit, and how does it contribute to desired societal outcomes?

- **Both of these must be included in written statement**
For both criteria, these questions apply:

- Is the research creative, original, and potentially transformative?
- Is the plan sufficiently developed, logical, well-reasoned?
- Is the individual qualified to complete the plan?
- Does the individual have access to sufficient resources to carry out the plan?
Get Started

- read two solicitations – one for the **GRFP** generally and one for your specific program

- read NSF grant proposal guidelines

- contact IPSR (ipsr_preaward@ku.edu)
THANK YOU!