

**NSF
Graduate Research
Fellowship Program
for the Social Sciences**

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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!

