NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program for the Social Sciences

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

• University designated research center
• Focus on social sciences and policy
• Home to six research centers
  » Center for Science, Tech. & Econ. Policy
  » Center for International Political Analysis
  » Center for Environmental Policy
  » Center for Research on Global Change
  » Indigenous Geographies Research Center
  » Surveillance Studies Research Center
• Pre-award, post-award, data services, conferences and events
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

• 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/Medical Anthropology
- Political Science
- Public Policy
- Science, Tech & Society
- Science of Science/Innovation Policy
- Sociology
- Urban/Regional Planning
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 hours 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
  » prior to completing fall term of 2nd grad year
Timing

• 2014 deadline for social science is Nov. 3

• begin work on proposal six months ahead

• decision takes six months from submission

• fellowship funds three years (usable over a five-year period)
What does it cover?

• $44,000 award to institution
  » $32,000 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
- relevant background, future goals (3 pp.)
- graduate research plan statement (2 pp.)
- eligibility statement (1 p. - if applicable)
- transcripts
- three reference letters from non-family members (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 (or request) 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!