NSF
Graduate Research
Fellowship Program
for the Social Sciences

Fall 2017

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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 Indigenous Research, Sci. & Tech.
  - » Surveillance Studies Research Center
  - » Center for Military, War, and Society Studies
  - » Center for Migration Research
  - » Surveillance Studies Research Center
- 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
- Communications
- 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 undergraduate senior year
  - » after graduating and prior to grad school
  - » during 1st year of grad school
  - » first semester of 2nd year of grad school

Timing

- 2017 deadline for social science is 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 (consult advisor on best timing)

What does it cover?

- $46,000 (per year) 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 well-reasoned, well-organized, based on sound rationale? Is there a mechanism to assess success?

- Is the individual, team, and organization 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 (ncmyers@ku.edu)

THANK YOU!