



**National Science Foundation - Graduate Research Fellowship Program**  
Institute for Policy & Social Research – KU  
Eligibility Guide

[National Science Foundation - Graduate Research Fellowship Program \(NSF-GRFP\) – Program Solicitation](https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2016/nsf16588/nsf16588.htm)  
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The Institute for Policy & Social Research (IPSR) supports social science research at KU. IPSR brings together social scientists from a broad range of disciplines to pursue and conduct sponsored research at the international, national, regional, state, and local levels.

The NSF-GRFP is a prestigious, highly competitive fellowship that supports early-stage graduate students. The program's goal is to advance science and engineering in the United States by sponsoring outstanding graduate students in NSF fields. NSF fields include social science fields such as Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science Psychology, Sociology, Urban and Regional Planning among others. A complete list of eligible fields is included at the end of the solicitation.

### **General NSF-GRFP Eligibility**

- \* Are you a United States citizen, national or permanent resident?
- \* Do you have adequate preparation to begin graduate study by Fall 2018? This is usually demonstrated by earning a bachelor's degree in an NSF field prior to Fall 2018.
- \* Have you completed no more than 12 months of full-time graduate study by August 1, 2017? (Separate rules apply if you completed part-time graduate study, a joint BS/MS program, or there was an interruption in your graduate study.)
- \* Are you pursuing or do you plan to pursue a research-based master's or doctoral degree?
- \* Are you pursuing or do you plan to pursue a degree in an NSF field?
- \* Is your primary advisor supportive of you submitting an application?

**If you answered "Yes" to all questions above, then you are likely eligible to apply for the NSF-GRFP.**  
Review the solicitation for additional detail.

### **Eligibility for Assistance from IPSR with NSF-GRFP Application**

- \* Do you plan to pursue graduate study in the social sciences or a policy-related field?

**If "Yes," then you are likely eligible for IPSR assistance with submitting your NSF-GRFP application.**  
**If "No," then you fall outside of the focus area for IPSR.**

Regardless of your response, you can always

- (1) apply on your own, or
- (2) inquire with KU Center for Research directly for assistance, or
- (3) inquire with another KU research center for assistance



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Preparing Your Application

You as the applicant are the primary person responsible for submitting your application. However, IPSR Grant Development staff can assist with determining eligibility, reviewing the application for completeness and consistency with guidelines, and providing feedback on written materials. Your field of study must be in the social sciences or be policy-related to be eligible for IPSR assistance.

If you would like to work with IPSR to prepare your application, email Nancy Myers ([ncmyers@ku.edu](mailto:ncmyers@ku.edu)) to arrange an appointment. Contact IPSR as early as possible for assistance.

Prior to the appointment, please fill out the form below and bring a completed version with you to your meeting with IPSR.

Who are four individuals who would be willing to write your letters of reference? Please list name, department, institution, and email.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What is your field of study?

In a few sentences, why are you pursuing graduate study in your field?

In a few sentences, what research do you plan to pursue in your graduate study?