

GSPD 2023

Writing a Winning Application

Presented by

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Graduate Research Fellowship Operations Center



For the Writing Workshop

Worksheets in Participants.zip

<http://ccom.uprrp.edu/~pordonez/NSFworkshop>

Worksheets in Essays.zip

<http://ccom.uprrp.edu/~pordonez/NSFworkshop>

Self-Scoring Rubric for Essays

<https://grad.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/pdfs/walkerrobinnsfguidesheets.pdf>

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program

Information: www.nsf.gov/grfp and www.nsfgrfp.org

Apply at: <https://www.research.gov/>



Seminar Outcomes

- Inform you of graduate funding opportunities
- Introduce several domestic and international fellowships
- Guide preparation of winning applications
- **Discuss Personal Statement and Proposal**
- **Brainstorm on Personal Statements**
- **Begin to write Personal Statements**



Complete Application

Research.gov

- Personal, Relevant Background and Future Goals Statement (3 pages)
- Graduate Research Statement (2 pages)
- Transcripts, uploaded into Research.gov
- **Three** letters of reference required
- Additional information required for some candidates
See Solicitation for eligibility requirements (available on www.nsfgrfp.org)

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Personal, Relevant Background and Future Goals Statement (3 pages)

- **How do you envision graduate school preparing you for a career that allows you to contribute to expanding scientific understanding as well as broadly benefit society?** Describe your personal, educational and/or professional experiences that motivate your decision to pursue advanced study in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM). Include specific examples of any research and/or professional activities in which you have participated. Present a concise description of the activities, highlight the results and discuss how these activities have prepared you to seek a graduate degree. Specify your role in the activity including the extent to which you worked independently and/or as part of a team. Describe the contributions of your activity to advancing knowledge in STEM fields as well as the potential for broader societal impacts (See Solicitation, Section VI, for more information about BI)

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Essay Critique

Before

After

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Tips to an Award-winning Personal Statement

- Make it personal, make it yours! Highlight your **UNIQUE** perspective and outstanding characteristics!
- Scientific, not flowery.
- Show your passion. **SHOW IT, DON'T TELL IT!**
- Address Review Criteria
- Describe your most important research experiences and connect them to your personal experiences. -> **INTELLECTUAL MERIT**
- Specify throughout your essay:
 - **WHY** do you want to go to grad school?
 - **WHAT** are your future goals after grad school?
 - **WHICH** research topics interest you the most?
 - **WHAT** kinds of unique insights may you offer?
 - **HOW** will the NSF GRFP help you achieve your goals?
 - **HOW** you will give back to the community? -> **BROADER IMPACTS**
- **Proofread proofread proofread**



More External Resources

- NSF GRFP Winning Essays

<http://tinyurl.com/NSFGRFPEXamples>

- Insights on Fellowship & Self-Scoring Rubric for Essays

<https://mcnairscholars.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/NSF-Graduate-Research-Fellowship-Program-Presentation.pdf>

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Let's brainstorm

- Discuss answers to the WS Personal Statement in Breakout Rooms
- Report out to the group possible story that exemplifies all your best qualities and your passion for science.

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Graduate Research Plan (2 pages)

Present an **original research topic** that you would like to pursue in graduate school. **Describe the research idea, your general approach**, as well as any unique resources that may be needed for accomplishing the research goal (i.e., access to national facilities or collections, collaborations, overseas work, etc.) You may choose to include important literature citations. Address the **potential** of the **research to advance knowledge** and understanding within science as well as the potential for **broader impacts** on society. The research discussed must be in a field listed in the Solicitation (Section X, Fields of Study).

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Guide to a successful research proposal

- Read and know the research field of your project
 - Where is the field moving?
 - What is the next step of your research project from a summer program or at your home institution?
- Brainstorming on the different project ideas
- Discuss your research plans with your mentors
- Key points:
 - Novel approaches
 - Hypothesis
 - Expected outcomes
 - Realistic plan
 - IM and BI

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Reflection

- With what you know now, how are you better prepared to fund your graduate education?



Thank you

Questions?? Feel free to contact me...

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UMBC

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**This presentation and several other resources can be found
<http://ccom.uprrp.edu/~pordonez/NSFworkshop>**

