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# Graduate Research Fellowship Program (National Science Foundation)

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Murdock College Science Research Conference

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# Goals, Amounts, Deadlines

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- To select, recognize, and financially support individuals who have demonstrated the potential to be high achieving scientists and engineers, early in their careers.
- To broaden participation in science and engineering of underrepresented groups, including women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and veterans.
- Three years of support (can be spread over five years):
  - \$34,000 stipend to individual per year
  - \$12,000 educational allowance to institution per year
- Application deadlines are in late October

# Eligibility

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- Undergraduate seniors and bachelor's degree holders may apply before enrolling in a degree-granting graduate program.
- Graduate students enrolled in a degree-granting program are limited to only **one** application to the GRFP, submitted in the first year or at the beginning of the second year of their degree program.\*
- Be a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident
- Intend to enroll or be enrolled full-time in a research-based graduate degree program in an eligible field of study

\*Prior to the 2017 competition, graduate students were not limited to only one application.

# Eligible Fields and 2018 Percentages

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● Chemistry	8.5%
● Computer & Information Sciences and Engineering	6.1%
● Engineering	24.0%
● Geosciences	5.9%
● Life Sciences	26.0%
● Materials Research	2.7%
● Mathematical Sciences	4.8%
● Physics & Astronomy	6.5%
● Psychology	5.9%
● Social Sciences	7.6%
● STEM Education and Learning Research	1.4%

# Rates of Success

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- 2010 – 2018: 2,000 fellowships granted each year
- 2016: 16,800 applications (12% success rate)
- 2017: 13,200 applications (15% success rate)
- 2018: 12,400 applications (16% success rate)
- 2016: 31% to non-graduate students, 54% to women
- 2017: 36% to non-graduate students, 58% to women
- 2018: 39% to non-graduate students, 58% to women
- NSF continues to adjust the selection process with the goal of more fellowships going to non-graduate students

# Primarily Undergraduate Institutions

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- For the 2018 program:

**15%** of the fellowships went to students with an undergraduate degree from a PUI\*

**25%** of these students were non-graduate students

\*as determined by me from knowledge or institution name

- There is a need for more PUI faculty on GRFP panels!!!  
Email a GRFP program director and express interest  
Read applications during December-January  
Virtual two-day panel follows

# Successful Applications

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- High GPA in STEM courses (below 3.5 is not competitive)
- Strong letters of reference, stressing independence of applicant and originality of applicant's contribution to the research project
- Publications and scientific presentations
- Proposed project is explained well and demonstrates a passion for research
- Proposal is hypothesis driven and addresses possible pitfalls and workarounds
- Project description and letters of recommendations are detailed
- Broader impacts are addressed in both the proposed project and personal statement
- If possible, description of how prior experiences have been put to good use, especially if coming from a challenging background.