Rice Undergraduate Students

Preparing a Competitive Application for NSF’s Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

About the NSF GRFP
The NSF GRFP application period is now open! The NSF GRFP provides fellowships to individuals selected early in their graduate careers based on their demonstrated potential for significant achievements in science and engineering. Seniors planning on going into STEM graduate programs in the following fields are eligible to apply: Life Sciences, Geosciences Social Sciences, Psychology, STEM Education and Learning Mathematical Sciences, Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy, Engineering, Computer and Information Science and Engineering, and Materials Research. The program provides three years of support for graduate study that is in a field within NSF’s mission and that leads to a research-based doctoral degree. The NSF expects to award 2,000 graduate research fellowships under this program solicitation pending availability of funds.

The program goals are 1) to select, recognize, and financially support individuals early in their careers with the demonstrated potential to be high achieving scientists and engineers, and 2) to broaden participation in science and engineering of underrepresented groups, including women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and veterans.

To learn more about the NSF GRFP, visit https://www.nsfgrfp.org/.

GRFP Presentation and Workshop Series
The Office of the Dean of Engineering encourages students to apply for the fellowship and make use of university services made available to students. These services include a presentation, two supplemental workshops, and one-on-one consultations with a university editor. The presentation provides a high-level overview of the GRFP, while the workshop series will comprise two components: Writing the Personal Statement and Research Plan Q&A and a Peer Review Session in which participants will work with peers to receive construct feedback. Additionally, a university grant writer/editor will offer 30 minute consultation sessions for two months starting in early September (first come-first served). The grant writer will help students brainstorm and provide invaluable feedback while also reviewing, proofing, and editing drafts. Please contact Dr. Molly Slattery at slattery@rice.edu for questions regarding GRFP university-sponsored programs.

1) The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (Presentation)
   Dr. Joff Silberg, BCB/BIOE
   Date and Time: August 26, 11:50-1 p.m.
   Location: Room 180, Dell Butcher

2) NSF GRFP Personal Statement and Research Plan Q&A (Workshop)
Dr. Molly Slattery, Office of Proposal Development

Date and Time: September 16, 7-9 p.m.
Location: Duncan Hall room 1064

Please RSVP via the following link: http://doodle.com/vce7eak9dgabcwhn

3) NSF GRFP Peer Review Session (Workshop)
Dr. Molly Slattery, Office of Proposal Development
Dr. Jennifer Wilson, Center for Written, Oral, and Visual Communication

Date and Time: October 16, 3:00 p.m.
Location: Center for Written, Oral, and Visual Communication, Fondren Library Mezzanine

Please RSVP via the following link: http://doodle.com/3uhzemgw559rbu5g

4) One-on-one Consultations (Office visit or Skype)
Dr. Molly Slattery, Office of Proposal Development

Date and Time: August 31 – October 30
Location: TBA

Working with your advisor, schedule a consultation with a grant writer. Email drafts 48 hours in advance of your appointment. For those needing assistance in the initial stages of grant writing, you may set up an appointment but do realize that students may only be able to meet once with the grant writer as demand for this service is high.

Contact Dr. Molly Slattery at slattery@rice.edu to set up an appointment.