

Division of Biology and Medicine-Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies  
Checklist for  
**NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Applications**

**Eligibility:**

- US Citizens, Nationals, and Permanent Residents
- Completed ≤ 12 months of grad training (2<sup>nd</sup>-years can apply; current semester doesn't count).

**Field of Study Deadlines**—Fastlane application must be submitted by **5 PM** your time zone:

- Standard deadlines are in early November and are specific to field (Life Sciences, Engineering, Interdisciplinary); exact dates are announced in August/September.

**Required Application Materials:**

- 1) Fastlane online application form
  - ◆ Register with NSF Fastlane and complete your profile as soon as possible.
  - ◆ Fields include: name, address, permanent address, email, phone; DOB, birthplace, citizenship, native language; high school; gender; race; ethnicity; disability status; name, location, dates, degree, major, and enrollment status, for all colleges/universities attended; department and course-hours for all graduate courses completed; title, organization, and dates of scholarships, teaching, or other work experience relevant to your field since starting college; graduate field(s) of study, including percent of program for each field if interdisciplinary; names, organizations, and email addresses of references; and level of education completed.
- 2) GRE general and subject test scores (optional, but recommended)
  - ◆ NSF will pay for score reporting.
- 3) Official Transcripts for all colleges/universities attended through last summer.
  - ◆ Send transcript(s) to: GRF Operations Center  
Suite T-50, 1818 N St. NW  
Washington, DC 20036-2479.
  - ◆ Must be **received by** field deadline.
- 4) At least 3 letters of reference
  - ◆ Contact info included in Fastlane Application
  - ◆ All letters of reference must be **submitted by 1 December**.
- 5) Personal Statement (essay)
- 6) Previous Research Experience (essay)
- 7) Proposed Plan of Research (essay)

**N.B.:** Essays cannot exceed 2, 8.5" x 11" pages in Times New Roman 12 with 1" margins—all necessary references included. Failure to comply may cause your application to be rejected.

- NSF evaluates all applications on two broad criteria: Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts.
  - ◆ Teaching and diversity are often overlooked; be sure to address them in multiple places.
  - ◆ As much as possible, all three essays should address both criteria.
- The NSF provides a long and detailed application guide at:  
[https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/html/GRFP\\_Applicant\\_User\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/html/GRFP_Applicant_User_Guide.pdf)
- The University of Missouri Graduate School has helpful guides for each part of the application: <http://gradschool.missouri.edu/resources/gw/>