FEDERAL GRANT PROPOSAL WRITING 101 FOR STUDENTS

AMERICAN GEOSCIENCES INSTITUTE

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Webinar content:
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
USGS Mendenhall Fellowship
NOAA Knauss Fellowship
NASA Postdoctoral Fellowship
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program

- Provides up to 3 years of support for graduate education
- Over $138,000 awarded over 5 years in funding package (including 3 years of support at $34,000 during a 5-year fellowship period)
- Internship opportunities exclusive to NSF GRFP recipients (via GRIP and INTERN)
- Students most commonly apply during their first or second year of graduate school
  - Note: applicants can only apply once during graduate school
- Over 12,000 applicants each year with ~2,000 fellowships awarded over 100 sub-disciplines
  - ~100 fellowships are awarded to the geosciences
- Timeline:
  - July: Program solicitation released
  - August: Applications open
  - October: Application deadline
  - April: Award notification
- Key components of application:
  - 2 statements: (1) personal statement and (2) research statement
  - Merit review criteria: broader impacts (i.e. potential benefits to society) and intellectual merit (i.e. potential to advance knowledge)
- Visit the official website here
- Examples of successful applications (and advice) can be found here and here
- View the webinar video here for more information
USGS Mendenhall Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

- This program is for individuals who are about to graduate with a PhD or who have received a PhD within 5 years of the application date.
- Positions Fellows favorably for a future USGS hire.
- Fellows receive a full GS-12 salary and benefits for 2 years with an optional 2-year extension.
- Fields of study can include geology, biology, and climate science, among others.
- Deadlines are variable depending on the project.
- All applications are available through USAJobs.
- You are applying for a specific research project, so choose a project that aligns closely with your skills and goals.
  - Applicants can contact the project sponsors prior to submitting an application to receive guidance on developing your research proposal.
- Key application components:
  - Research proposal
  - Budget
  - References
  - Required documents: CV, transcripts, list of publications
  - Background check (if you’re offered the position)
- Application tips:
  - Address the USGS scientific needs
  - Look for key words and phrases in the research opportunity description and include them in your research proposal and CV
  - Coordinate with the research advisors
  - Follow instructions on USAJobs to the letter
  - Check USAJobs often for updates on your status
  - Moving expenses are not included, so make sure the project is located in a place you want to live and can afford to move to.
- View the webinar video here for more information.
Sea Grant Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship

- For graduate students with an interest in ocean, coastal, and Great Lake resources and in the national policy decisions affecting those resources
- Benefits:
  - Travel and professional development opportunities
  - Great Knauss cohort community
  - 1,351 Fellows since its establishment in 1979
  - 50% of alumni work for the federal government
- Placement in the Washington, D.C. area in the legislative or executive branch for 12 months
- $47,500 salary/stipend with an additional up to ~$11,500 in travel support, professional development, etc.
- Eligibility: Student must be enrolled in a graduate degree program (Masters, PhD, Law) when they apply
- Abbreviated timeline:
  - February: Applicants submit packages to their state Sea Grant programs
  - April: National reviewers receive applications for merit review
  - June: Notification of fellowship finalists
  - February: Fellowship begins
- Application components required by applicant:
  - Personal education and career goal statement (1,000 words max)
  - CV (2 pages max)
  - 2-3 signed letters of recommendation
  - Listing of classes or plans for spring, summer, and fall (1 page)
- Application information available on the National Sea Grant Website or your State Sea Grant program website
- View the webinar video [here](#) for more information, including application advice
NASA Postdoctoral Program

- NPP provides fellows with the chance to work with NASA scientists by contributing to NASA's missions in space science, earth science, aeronautics, space operations, exploration systems, and astrobiology.
- Fellows are placed in a NASA Center and given an on-site advisor.
- Primary goal: complete a proposed research project.
- 1 to 3 year appointment with a stipend starting at $60k and an annual $10k travel budget.
  - Fellows must have a PhD completed before the start date and must be willing to relocate to NASA Center.
- Deadlines: March 1, July 1, and November 1, annually.
- Key components of application:
  - Application form, 3 letters of recommendation, transcripts, statement of purpose, and research proposal.
  - Keep in mind that some applications may take weeks to months to complete.
- Evaluated based on scientific merit, references, academic and research record.
- Advice for a successful application:
  - Contacting the NASA Center advisor for the research opportunity 4-6 months before the application's deadline.
  - Look at the research of previous NPP Fellows who worked with the advisor in the past.
  - Follow the formatting guidelines exactly according to the NPP instructions (npp.usra.edu).
  - Write your research proposal over weeks or months.
  - Proposals are easier to review/evaluate if broken down into tasks.
- Details about the program can be found here.
- View the webinar video here for more information and for additional application advice.