

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