

2010 GRFP Review Process, Evaluation Criteria, and Award Notification

(Note: This handout is copied directly from the [2010 NSF-GRFP Program Solicitation 09-063](#))

Application Review Information

“The Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) is designed to provide opportunities for pre-doctoral education that prepares students for a broad range of disciplinary and cross-disciplinary careers through its investment in intellectual capital. Applicants are expected to propose a holistic plan for graduate education that demonstrates the potential to successfully complete a research-based graduate degree and the potential to become an emerging knowledge expert in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.”

NSF Application Review Process

“Applications will be reviewed by panels of disciplinary and interdisciplinary scientists, mathematicians, and engineers and other professional experts in graduate education. Applications will be assigned to panels based on the applicant’s chosen field(s) of study and the discipline(s) represented. Thus, applicants are advised to select the fields of study in the FastLane applicant module that are most closely aligned to the proposed graduate program of study and research plan. Applications to interdisciplinary fields of study are reviewed by interdisciplinary panelists based on the disciplines indicated by the applicant and review of the application by the GRFP staff.

Each application, therefore, will be reviewed independently on the basis of merit using all available information in the completed application. In considering applications, reviewers will be instructed to address the two Merit Review Criteria as approved by the National Science Board – Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts (Grant and Proposal Guide, NSF 08-01). Applicants, therefore, must address each criterion in their written statements to provide reviewers with the information necessary to respond fully to both.”

Two Questions Each Reviewer Must Answer:	<i>How the NSF defines the criteria:</i>
(1) What is the intellectual merit the proposed activity?	Intellectual Merit Criterion*: “How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields? How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? (If appropriate, the reviewer will comment on the quality of prior work.) To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts? How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity? Is there sufficient access to resources?”
(2) What are the broader impacts the proposed activity?	Broader Impacts Criterion**: “How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning? How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)? To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships? Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding? What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?”

*** “To evaluate the intellectual merit criterion, panelists will consider: the strength of the academic record, the proposed plan of research, the description of previous research experience, references, Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) General and Subject Tests scores, and the appropriateness of the choice of institution relative to the proposed plan for graduate education and research.”**

**** “To help panelists evaluate the broader impacts criterion, applicants should provide characteristics of their background, including personal, professional, and educational experiences, to indicate their potential to fulfill the broader impacts criterion.”**

“Applications submitted in response to this program solicitation will be reviewed by Panel Review. Reviewers will be asked to formulate a recommendation to either support or decline each proposal. The Program Officer assigned to manage the proposal's review will consider the advice of reviewers and will formulate a recommendation.”

Note: Be sure to read this NSF site on [Transformative Research](#) and read the [official GRFP announcement](#).

Notification of the Award

“Notification of the fellowship award is made to the applicant by the Division of Graduate Education. Applicants whose applications are not selected for fellowship award will be advised as promptly as possible.”

IMPORTANT: Your proposed graduate institution is not notified of your award. If you accept a 2010 GRFP award, you must notify your future graduate institution of your fellowship, and arrange for your stipend payments. Additional information may be found in the [GRFP FastLane](#) under “GRFP FAQs” and “Information for Graduate Fellows” in the Quick Links section.

Award Conditions

“An NSF Fellowship award consists of the award letter that includes the applicable terms and conditions and fellowship management instructions. All Fellowship awards are made subject to the provisions (and any subsequent amendments) contained in the document Information for Graduate Research Fellows.

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program applicants will be notified in late March or early April, 2010 of their selection. The applicant must accept or decline the Fellowship within 30 days of notification by logging into the Graduate Research Fellowship Program link at: <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/> with the applicant User ID and password. Failure to comply with the deadline may result in revocation of the fellowship offer.”

IMPORTANT: Read the [official announcement](#) about to learn about **other funding opportunities, Research Involving Human Subjects, Proposals Involving Vertebrate Animals, Legal Rights to Intellectual Property and Reporting Requirements.**

For 2010 GRFP Recipients Who will be Attending MU for Graduate Studies

If you are offered, and accept, a 2010 GRFP award you must notify the fiscal person in MU’s Graduate School to establish an account. Stop by 210 Jesse Hall or call 573.882.6311. Please do this as soon as possible after you accept your award. Staff members at MU must take several steps to process your paper work, in order for you to receive your monthly stipend in the following fall. Be sure to let your future graduate department and adviser know also! *Thank you!*