WELCOME TO THE BOOTCAMP

We will begin shortly.

If you need assistance during this event, please use the chat function to message Sam Lake or Kelly Oman

PhDPlus

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Fall Bootcamp

August 15, 2023

University of Virginia | PhDPlus

Sam Lake, Ph.D.

Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs
Assistant Director of Research Communication

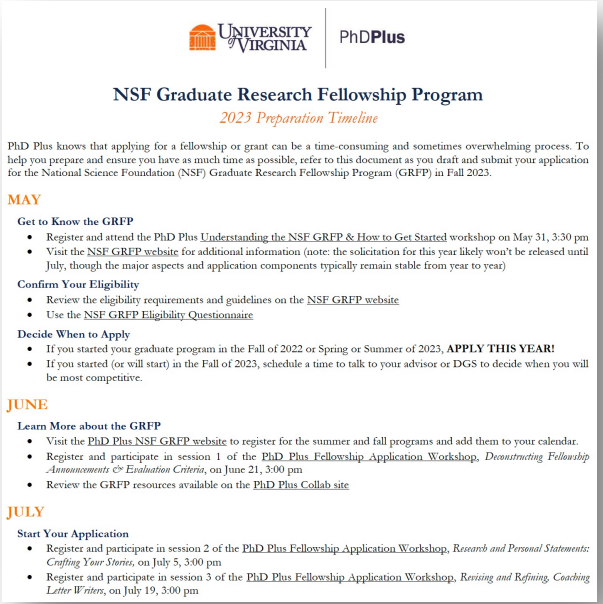
Pronouns: he/him/his

Kelly Oman, Ph.D.

Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs
Assistant Director of Research Communication

Pronouns: she/her/hers

How to Get Started



UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA | PhDPlus

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

2023 Preparation Timeline

PhD Plus knows that applying for a fellowship or grant can be a time-consuming and sometimes overwhelming process. To help you prepare and ensure you have as much time as possible, refer to this document as you draft and submit your application for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) in Fall 2023.

MAY

Get to Know the GRFP

- Register and attend the PhD Plus Understanding the NSF GRFP & How to Get Started workshop on May 31, 3:30 pm
- Visit the NSF GRFP website for additional information (note: the solicitation for this year likely won't be released until July, though the major aspects and application components typically remain stable from year to year)

Confirm Your Eligibility

- Review the eligibility requirements and guidelines on the NSF GRFP website
- Use the NSF GRFP Eligibility Questionnaire

Decide When to Apply

- If you started your graduate program in the Fall of 2022 or Spring or Summer of 2023, **APPLY THIS YEAR!**
- If you started (or will start) in the Fall of 2023, schedule a time to talk to your advisor or DGS to decide when you will be most competitive.

JUNE

Learn More about the GRFP

- Visit the PhD Plus NSF GRFP website to register for the summer and fall programs and add them to your calendar.
- Register and participate in session 1 of the PhD Plus Fellowship Application Workshop, *Deconstructing Fellowship Announcements & Evaluation Criteria*, on June 21, 3:00 pm
- Review the GRFP resources available on the PhD Plus Collab site

JULY

Start Your Application

- Register and participate in session 2 of the PhD Plus Fellowship Application Workshop, *Research and Personal Statements: Crafting Your Stories*, on July 5, 3:00 pm
- Register and participate in session 3 of the PhD Plus Fellowship Application Workshop, *Revising and Refining, Coaching Letter Writers*, on July 19, 3:00 pm

Visit our website: https://phdplus.virginia.edu/NSF-GRFP

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

Contents

- Welcome & Introduction
- Application Elements & Evaluation Criteria
- Deconstructing Past Applications

Break

- Experience and Story Ideas
- Open Q&A Session
- Review “Next Steps” for Fall

End of Workshop (3:30 pm)

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE NSF GRFP

Ensure the vitality of the human resource base of science and engineering in the United States and reinforce its diversity.

- Five-year Award (3 years of support) – **Totaling $159,000***
- Deadlines – **Week of October 16-20**

Select, recognize, and financially support early-career individuals with the demonstrated potential to be high-achieving scientists and engineers

- Focused on the individual
- Intellectual merit

Broaden participation of the full spectrum of diverse talents in STEM. NSF actively encourages submissions of applications from the full spectrum of diverse talent in STEM.

- Broader impacts

*NSF provides a $37K stipend and $16K cost of education allowance

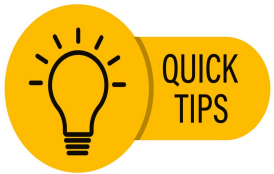
UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

FALL 2023 SUBMISSION DATES

Applications are due at 5:00 pm (local time). The day varies by Field of Study.

The 2023 dues dates are:

Monday, Oct. 16, 2023	Life Sciences
Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023	Computer and Information Science and Engineering, Materials Research, Psychology, Social Sciences, STEM Education and Learning
Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023	Engineering
Friday, Oct. 20, 2023	Chemistry, Geosciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physics and Astronomy



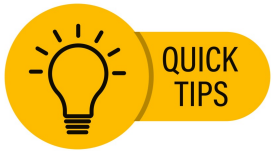
Don't wait until the last minute. Log in and start your application several week before the deadline, and upload and submit your materials the week before the deadline.

Confirm the **letter writer deadline** in the NSF Application Module.

WHAT DOES THE APPLICATION INCLUDE?

Application Module *(Resume/CV content)*

- Personal Information, Education, Work/Research and Other Experience*
  - Academic Honors and Awards, Fellowships, Scholarships, Presentations, and Publications
- Proposed Field of Study and Proposed Graduate Study



When reviewers download your application, the first 2-3 pages will include the information you enter into the Application Module. There is a text box that allows you to enter less than 16,000 characters (2,000 – 4,000 words).

Do NOT leave these sections blank. The reviewers will read your responses, and you will be at a competitive disadvantage if you do not include information in this sections.

Application Portal: https://www.research.gov/grfp/Login.do

WHAT DOES THE APPLICATION INCLUDE?

Application Module *(Resume/CV content)*

- Personal information, Education, Work/Research and Other Experience

  Proposed Field of Study and Proposed Graduate Study

Personal, Relevant Background, and Future Goals Statement

- 3 pages – *applicant's story & demonstrate their potential for STEM research*

Graduate Research Plan Statement

- 2 pages - *an original research project the student will complete during the fellowship*

Reference Letters *(names & email address)*

- Mandatory 3 reference writer names; up to 5 letters can be requested

Unofficial Transcripts *(at least 1 must be submitted, include transcript for grad enrollment)*

NSF requires PDFs; transcripts must not be encrypted or password-protected

NSF REVIEW CRITERIA

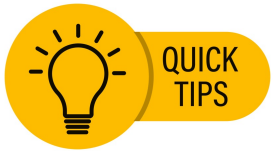
Intellectual Merit

The potential to advance knowledge within your field or across different fields.

Broader Impacts

The potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

Reviewers should make "a holistic, comprehensive review. Look for intellectual merit and broader impacts throughout the ENTIRE application."



Applications that do not have separate headings for Intellectual Merit *and* Broader Impacts will not be reviewed.

NSF provides templates for the Personal and Research Plans statements under the Resources section of the website: https://www.nsfgrfp.org/resources/

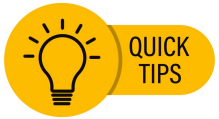
INTELLECTUAL MERIT

The potential of both the applicant *and* the proposed activities to advance knowledge and understanding within your field or across different fields.

- Your demonstrated intellectual ability & academic performance (such as grades, curricula, awards, listed achievements, research products, etc.)*

Other evidence of your potential to be a high-achieving scientist or engineer, such as your:

- Previous research experience*
- Professional experience*
- Graduate Research Plan*
- Ability to plan and conduct research
- Ability to work as a member of a team as well as independently
- Ability to interpret & communicate research
- Willingness to take the initiative, solve problems, and persist



The * on this and the next few slides highlight examples that are shared with reviewers.

BROADER IMPACTS

The potential of the proposed activities to benefit society or advance desired societal outcome.

- Potential impact of the individual (you!) on society
- Potential impact of your research on society

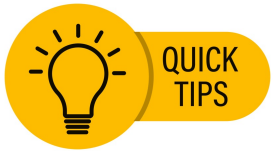
Examples of Societal Benefits:

- Increasing participation of underrepresented groups, women, students with disabilities, and veterans in STEM*
- Outreach and mentoring; improving STEM education (at any level) *
- Development of a globally competitive STEM workforce*
- Increasing public science literacy and engagement with science and technology*
- Community outreach (e.g., science clubs, newspapers, blogs)
- Increasing collaboration between academia, industry, nonprofits, community groups, and others *
- Increased national security and economic competitiveness of the United States *

BROADER IMPACTS EXAMPLES

Reviewers look for evidence in:

- Plans, contributions, and achievements*
- Personal experiences, resilience, and motivation*
- Prior accomplishments, current activities, goals, and next steps*
- Initiative, engagement, and awareness of where they can have an impact*
- Explanation of research importance*
- Awards or honors for IMPACT*
- Reference letters*



NSF tells reviewers that "the importance of Broader Impacts differs among individuals and is informed by the reviewer's perspectives and experience," and the novelty of approaches differs among disciplines.

DECONSTRUCTING PAST APPLICATIONS

BREAKOUT SESSION 1

Panel Reviews & Rubric

NSF GRFP Sample Rubric

INTELLECTUAL MERIT

Demonstrated intellectual ability and other accepted requisites for scholarly scientific study, such as the ability to:

(1) Plan and conduct research;
(2) Work as a member of a team, as well as independently; and
(3) Interpret and communicate research findings.

How to evaluate intellectual merit:

Past evidence of success [**Application Module**, **Personal Statement**]:

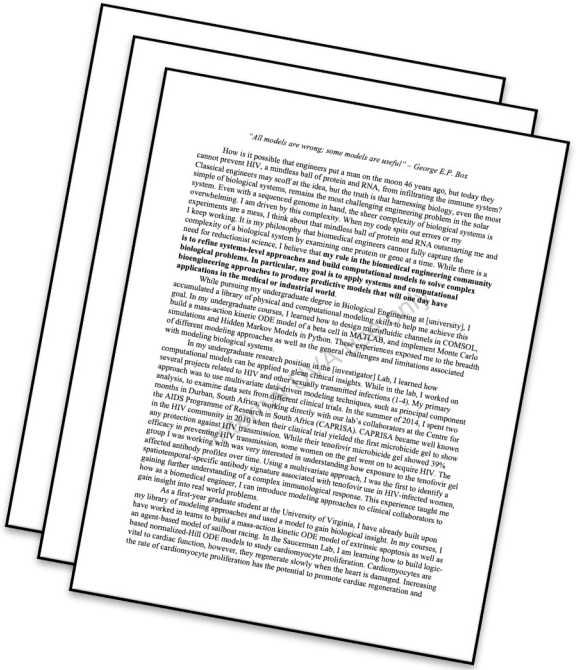
- Academic excellence (GPA)
- Ability to plan and conduct research
- Research participation and experience (academic and summer)
- Ability to interpret and communicate research
- Research contributions (posters, presentations, publications)
- Leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, & innovation (beyond coursework)
- Persistence (balancing many activities, overcoming challenges)

Future evidence for success [**Research Statement**]:

- Interesting/important question addressed
- Knowledge within the proposed research area
- Creativity and originality of proposed research/activities
- Institutional match for studies and reach is relevant
- Leadership and innovation
- Strong communication skills

Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit:

◯Excellent ◯Very Good ◯Good ◯Fair ◯Poor



SESSION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Quick introductions (30 sec. each)
2. Assign one member to take notes and share a very brief report-out of your conversation during the full group discussion.
3. Discuss the application. Highlight the strengths and weaknesses based on the evaluation criteria in the sample rubric.
4. Identify 2-3 constructive critiques or recommendations you would share with the student who submitted these materials.

BRAINSTORMING YOUR STORY

During the break, take time to reflect on the personal journey and experiences that you could incorporate into your application.

- Identify specific stories/experiences (personal and professional) that contributed to your **motivation and preparation** for pursuing a STEM career.
- Focus on **the why**, and what you learned and gained that has informed your career and still motivates you today.

BREAK

PERSONAL STATEMENT IDEAS
SMALL GROUP WORKSHOP

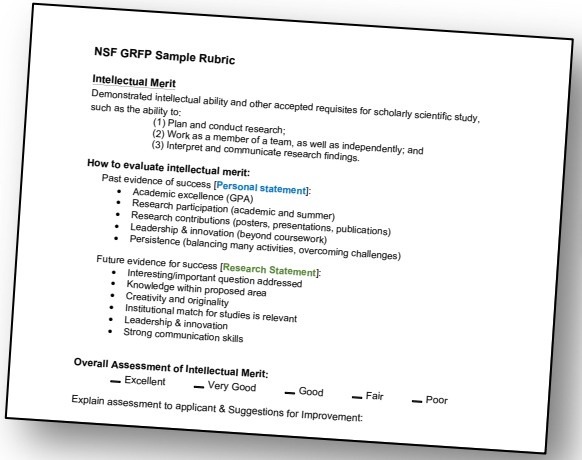
BREAKOUT SESSION 2

Personal Statements

Tell your story & demonstrate your potential for STEM research

- Experiences (personal and professional) that contributed to your **motivation and preparation** for pursuing a STEM career
- Previous research/industrial/professional experiences
  - Focus on **the why,** using the experiences that have informed your career and motivate you today (Show; don't tell!)
  - What was the project? What was **your** contribution?
  - What did **you learn or gain** from this experience?
  - Articulate the importance of each experience and how it contributes to your role in the scientific community.
- Career aspirations and future goals
  - How have your experiences shaped your goals?

EVALUATION CRITERIA



NSF GRFP Sample Rubric

Intellectual Merit

Demonstrated intellectual ability and other accepted requisites for scholarly scientific study, such as the ability to:

(1) Plan and conduct research;
(2) Work as a member of a team, as well as independently; and
(3) Interpret and communicate research findings.

How to evaluate intellectual merit:

Past evidence of success [Personal statement]:

- Academic excellence (GPA)
- Research participation (academic and summer)
- Research contributions (posters, presentations, publications)
- Leadership & innovation (beyond coursework)
- Persistence (balancing many activities, overcoming challenges)

Future evidence for success [Research Statement]:

- Interesting/important question addressed
- Knowledge within proposed area
- Creativity and originality
- Institutional match for studies is relevant
- Leadership & innovation
- Strong communication skills

Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit:

_ Excellent _ Very Good _ Good _ Fair _ Poor

Explain assessment to applicant & Suggestions for Improvement:

- Past research experience and contributions
- Ability to interpret and effectively communicate findings
- Creativity, originality, and innovation
- Success working as a team member and independently
- Past leadership and volunteer experience
- Potential to be a future leader and to be innovative
- Persistence and ability to overcome challenges
- Evidence for future growth and long-term benefits
- Examples of broadening participation and expanding opportunities for others.

BREAKOUT SESSION FORMAT

Introductions (30 sec. each)

Ask for a volunteer(s) to briefly share the experiences and stories they are considering including in their statement.

1. The volunteer will have ~5 mins to share
2. Participants will listen and write down the criteria that the experiences shared could correspond to.
3. Afterwards the participants will go around and share the criteria they noticed.
4. The presenter can then ask questions or talk through different ways to structure their statement with the group.

After 10 minutes a new volunteer will present to the group.

QUESTIONS?

THOUGHTS?

COMMENTS?

NEXT STEPS & RESOURCES

NEXT STEPS FOR THE FALL

1. Continue reflecting on your experiences and gaps in your CV.
    - Refine the stories you will include in your personal statement.
    - Identify the stories your reference letter writers can highlight.
    - Consider opportunities, groups, and relationships you can build ***now***.
2. Reconnect with your referees.
    - Confirm they are available and willing to write you a ***strong letter***.
3. Look at the PhD Plus GRFP Timeline (on Collab), discuss it with your advisor, and make a plan.

PHD+ RESOURCES FOR 2023 APPLICANTS

Understanding the NSF GRFP and How to Get Started *(recording available)*

- Eligibility, tips for each application element, important considerations, and more.

Fellowship Application Workshop Series *(recordings available)*

- Deconstructing Fellowship Announcements & Evaluation Criteria
- Research and Personal Statements: Crafting Your Stories
- Revising and Refining, Coaching Letter Writers

Fall Activities

- Mini-Writing Retreats: Aug. 24, Sept. 1, 7, 14, 22 | 2:00 – 4:30 pm
- Virtual Office Hours: Aug. 25, 29; Sept. 8, 13, 21; Oct. 6 | 3:00 – 4:30 pm
- Application Panel Review *"Speed Dating"*: Week of Sept. 25, dates & times TBD

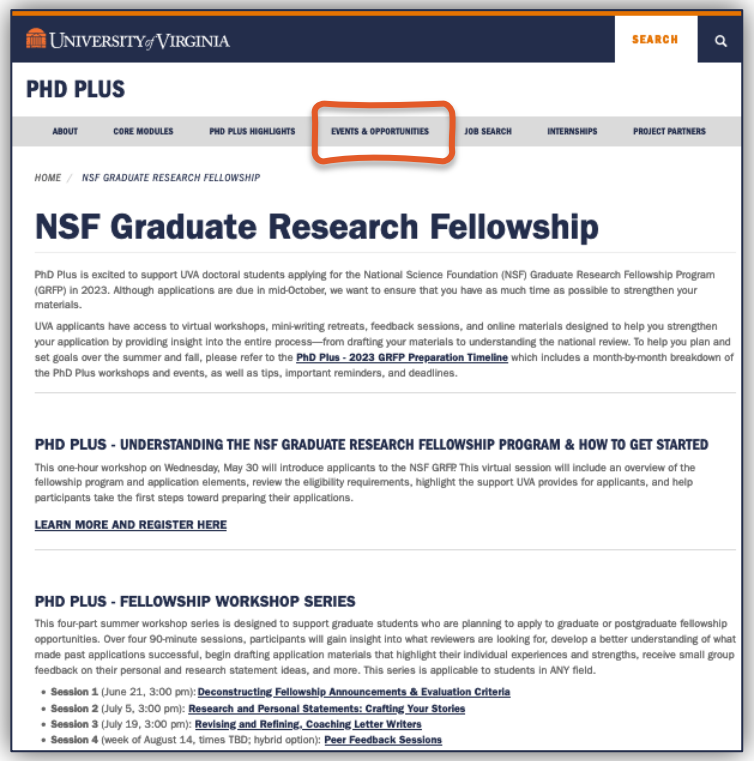
Advising Appointments

- To learn more and schedule an appointment visit: bit.ly/PhD_Plus_Advising

Applying to the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program?

Learn about the support PhD Plus provides UVA applicants.

phdplus.virginia.edu



UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA SEARCH

PHD PLUS

ABOUT | CORE MODULES | PHD PLUS HIGHLIGHTS | EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES | JOB SEARCH | INTERNSHIPS | PROJECT PARTNERS

HOME / NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

PhD Plus is excited to support UVA doctoral students applying for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) in 2023. Although applications are due in mid-October, we want to ensure that you have as much time as possible to strengthen your materials.

UVA applicants have access to virtual workshops, mini-writing retreats, feedback sessions, and online materials designed to help you strengthen your application by providing insight into the entire process—from drafting your materials to understanding the national review. To help you plan and set goals over the summer and fall, please refer to the **PhD Plus - 2023 GRFP Preparation Timeline** which includes a month-by-month breakdown of the PhD Plus workshops and events, as well as tips, important reminders, and deadlines.

PHD PLUS - UNDERSTANDING THE NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM & HOW TO GET STARTED

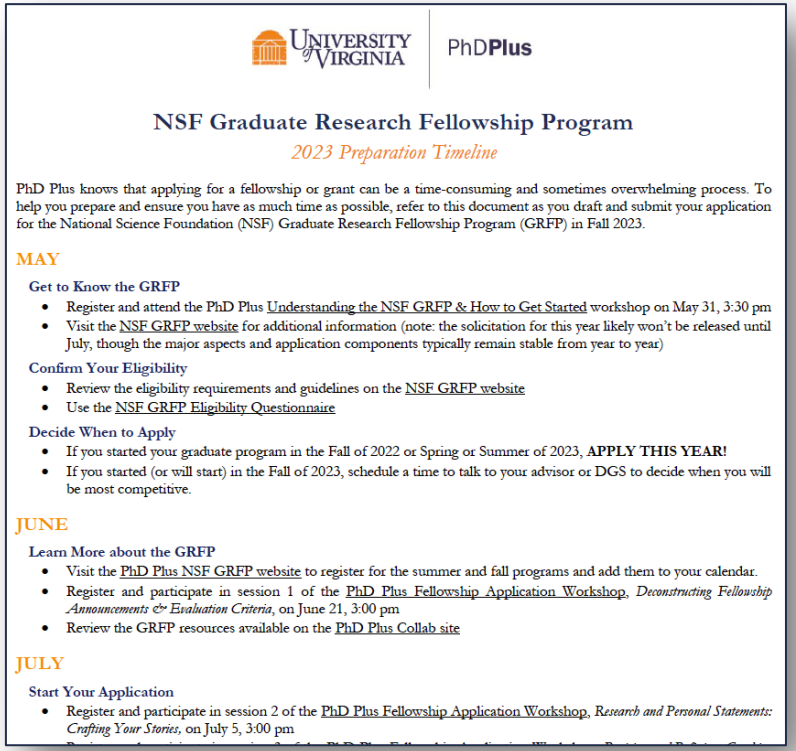
This one-hour workshop on Wednesday, May 30 will introduce applicants to the NSF GRFP. This virtual session will include an overview of the fellowship program and application elements, review the eligibility requirements, highlight the support UVA provides for applicants, and help participants take the first steps toward preparing their applications.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER HERE

PHD PLUS - FELLOWSHIP WORKSHOP SERIES

This four-part summer workshop series is designed to support graduate students who are planning to apply to graduate or postgraduate fellowship opportunities. Over four 90-minute sessions, participants will gain insight into what reviewers are looking for, develop a better understanding of what made past applications successful, begin drafting application materials that highlight their individual experiences and strengths, receive small group feedback on their personal and research statement ideas, and more. This series is applicable to students in ANY field.

- **Session 1** (June 21, 3:00 pm): **Deconstructing Fellowship Announcements & Evaluation Criteria**
- **Session 2** (July 5, 3:00 pm): **Research and Personal Statements: Crafting Your Stories**
- **Session 3** (July 19, 3:00 pm): **Revising and Refining, Coaching Letter Writers**
- **Session 4** (week of August 14, times TBD; hybrid option): **Peer Feedback Sessions**



UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA | PhDPlus

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

2023 Preparation Timeline

PhD Plus knows that applying for a fellowship or grant can be a time-consuming and sometimes overwhelming process. To help you prepare and ensure you have as much time as possible, refer to this document as you draft and submit your application for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) in Fall 2023.

MAY

Get to Know the GRFP

- Register and attend the PhD Plus Understanding the NSF GRFP & How to Get Started workshop on May 31, 3:30 pm
- Visit the NSF GRFP website for additional information (note: the solicitation for this year likely won't be released until July, though the major aspects and application components typically remain stable from year to year)

Confirm Your Eligibility

- Review the eligibility requirements and guidelines on the NSF GRFP website
- Use the NSF GRFP Eligibility Questionnaire

Decide When to Apply

- If you started your graduate program in the Fall of 2022 or Spring or Summer of 2023, **APPLY THIS YEAR!**
- If you started (or will start) in the Fall of 2023, schedule a time to talk to your advisor or DGS to decide when you will be most competitive.

JUNE

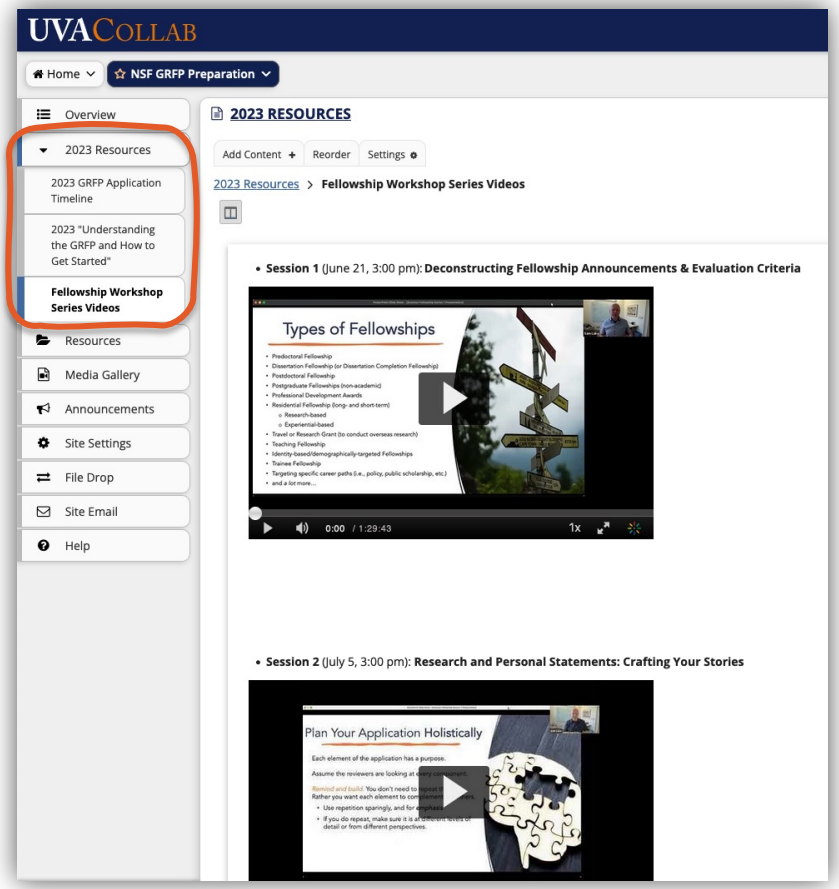
Learn More about the GRFP

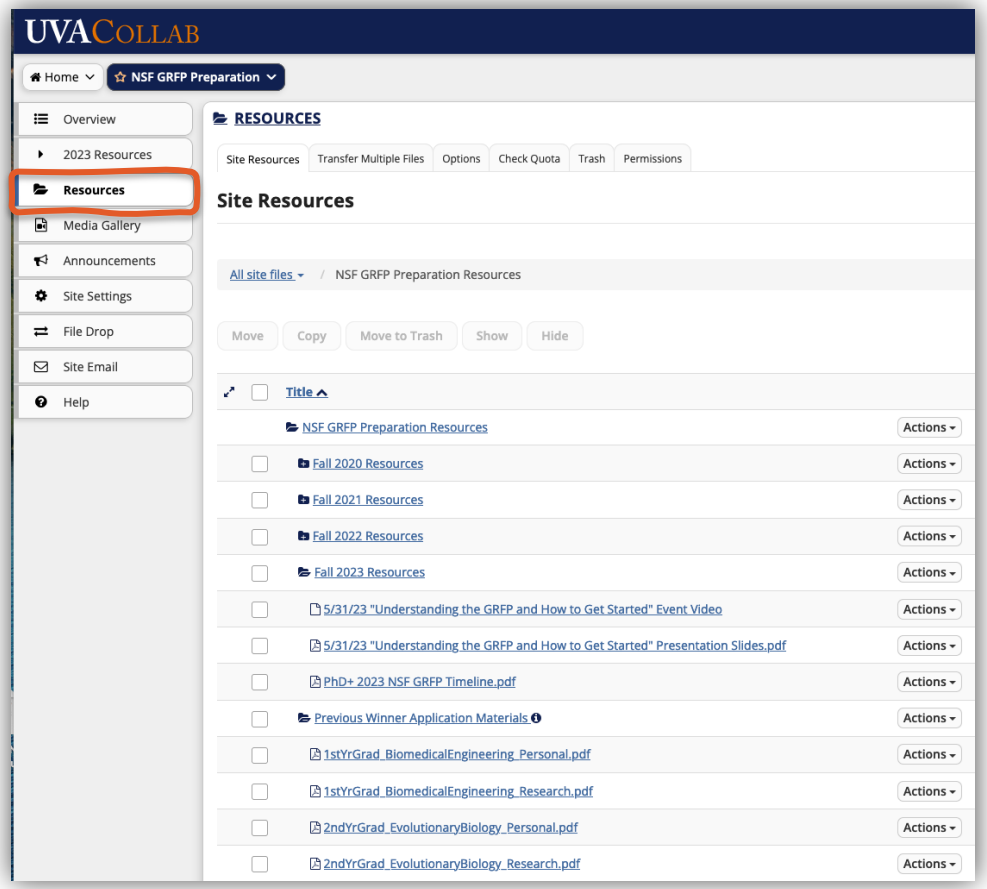
- Visit the PhD Plus NSF GRFP website to register for the summer and fall programs and add them to your calendar.
- Register and participate in session 1 of the PhD Plus Fellowship Application Workshop, *Deconstructing Fellowship Announcements & Evaluation Criteria*, on June 21, 3:00 pm
- Review the GRFP resources available on the PhD Plus Collab site

JULY

Start Your Application

- Register and participate in session 2 of the PhD Plus Fellowship Application Workshop, *Research and Personal Statements: Crafting Your Stories*, on July 5, 3:00 pm


UVACOLLAB
Home
NSF GRFP Preparation
Overview
2023 Resources
2023 GRFP Application Timeline
2023 "Understanding the GRFP and How to Get Started"
Fellowship Workshop Series Videos
Resources
Media Gallery
Announcements
Site Settings
File Drop
Site Email
Help
2023 RESOURCES
Add Content
Reorder
Settings
2023 Resources > Fellowship Workshop Series Videos
• Session 1 (June 21, 3:00 pm): Deconstructing Fellowship Announcements & Evaluation Criteria
Types of Fellowships
0:00 / 1:29:43
1x
• Session 2 (July 5, 3:00 pm): Research and Personal Statements: Crafting Your Stories
Plan Your Application Holistically


UVACOLLAB
Home
NSF GRFP Preparation
Overview
2023 Resources
Resources
Media Gallery
Announcements
Site Settings
File Drop
Site Email
Help
RESOURCES
Site Resources
Transfer Multiple Files
Options
Check Quota
Trash
Permissions
Site Resources
All site files
NSF GRFP Preparation Resources
Move
Copy
Move to Trash
Show
Hide
Title
NSF GRFP Preparation Resources
Fall 2020 Resources
Fall 2021 Resources
Fall 2022 Resources
Fall 2023 Resources
5/31/23 "Understanding the GRFP and How to Get Started" Event Video
5/31/23 "Understanding the GRFP and How to Get Started" Presentation Slides.pdf
PhD+ 2023 NSF GRFP Timeline.pdf
Previous Winner Application Materials
1stYrGrad_BiomedicalEngineering_Personal.pdf
1stYrGrad_BiomedicalEngineering_Research.pdf
2ndYrGrad_EvolutionaryBiology_Personal.pdf
2ndYrGrad_EvolutionaryBiology_Research.pdf
Actions

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

NSF GRFP 2023 solicitation:

https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2023/nsf23605/nsf23605.pdf

NSF Eligibility Questionnaire

https://www.nsfgrfp.org/applicants/fellowship-eligibility/

NSF GRFP Resources (recorded webinars, templates, slides, & session transcripts)

https://nsfgrfp.org/resources/

NSF GRFP FAQ:

https://nsfgrfp.org/applicants/faqs/

Blogs and Websites (advice, timelines, and previous awardee materials)

https://www.alexhunterlang.com/nsf-fellowship
http://www.malloryladd.com/nsf-grfp-advice.html

Applying to the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program?

Learn about the support PhD Plus provides UVA applicants.

QUESTIONS?

Your GRFP Support Team includes your advisor(s), lab mates, current and past fellows, and us. We are here to help and connect you to resources!

When you have questions, please reach out to us:

Sam Lake, Ph.D.

vvg6xs@virginia.edu

Kelly Oman, Ph.D.

dkk8cp@virginia.edu

bit.ly/PhDPlus_GRFP

University of Virginia

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA