



Introduction to Fellowships

Department of Materials Science and Engineering
A. J. Drexel Nanotechnology Institute
Drexel Fellowships Office

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What is a Fellowship?

- A fellowship **IS**
 - For highly motivated & ambitious students
 - An opportunity to excel
 - New Ideas/Research/Work Experiences
 - Mentoring
 - Prestige
 - Monetary Funding



How do I find fellowship opportunities?

- Departmental website
 - <http://www.materials.drexel.edu/Students/Funding/>
- Drexel Fellowships Office website
 - <http://www.drexel.edu/fellowships/search/index.html>
- Society Websites
 - Material Advantage for ASM TMS, ACerS, AIST:
<http://materialadvantage.org/financial-opportunities/>
 - MRS, others
 - Good for international students to start here
- Community of Science
 - <http://www.cos.com/>

● ● ● | Some Major Science Awards

- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP)
 - Nov annually: www.nsfgrfp.org
- National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship (NDSEG)
 - Jan annually: www.asee.org/ndseg
- Department of Defense Science, Mathematics, Research for Transformation (SMART)
 - Dec annually: www.asee.org/fellowships/smart/
- Department of Energy Office of Science Graduate Fellowship (SCGF) – NEW
 - Nov annually: <http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/SCGF.html>



NSF Graduate Research Fellowships

- www.nsfgrfp.org
- \$30,000 in stipend
- \$10,500 in university allowance (tuition)
- US citizens and permanent residents
- For graduate study leading to research-based master's or doctoral degrees in the fields of science, mathematics, social sciences and engineering
- Contribute significantly to research, teaching, and industrial applications in science, mathematics, and engineering
- Strongly encourages women, minorities, and persons with disabilities to compete fully in this program.



- <http://ndseg.asee.org/>
- DoD sponsorship for graduate students pursuing doctoral degree in an area of interest to DoD
- Three years tuition + fees
- Stipend (\$30,500-\$31,500)
- No service requirement

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION

- At or near the beginning of graduate studies
- US Citizenship
- GRE, transcript, 3 letters of recommendation
- Publications, Awards, Research, Leadership, Teamwork Experiences, Community work
- Summary of Goals
- Deadline: January 4, 2010
- About 10% receive award (varies by field)



The SMART Award

- <http://smart.asee.org/>
- DoD Sponsorship for undergraduate and graduate students in the STEM fields
- Goal: increase civilian scientists and engineers working in DoD labs
- Sponsoring agency
- \$25,000 - \$41,000 stipend per year + tuition
- Paid summer internship and post-graduate employment with DoD required
- One to five years



SMART Eligibility and Application

- Undergrad or Grad in STEM field
- U.S. citizenship required
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Aptitude and interest in theoretical and applied research -- "hand-on-the-bench" types
- GRE, 2 references, Transcript
- Publications, Awards, Professional and Research Experiences
- Summary of Goals
- Deadline: December 15th annually



Office of Science Graduate Fellowship (SCGF)

- <http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/SCGF.html>
- Brand New Award for graduate basic research toward national needs in energy, environment, and national security.
- Fields:
 - physics, biology, chemistry, mathematics, engineering, computational sciences, environmental sciences
- 3 years
- partial tuition support + 35K annual stipend + 5K research stipend
- Attendance at Annual Meeting required



DoE SCGF Eligibility and Application

- US Citizen
- Senior, 1st or 2nd year grad students in research-focused program
- Min 3.3 GPA (undergrad)
- Personal Statement, Proposed Research
- 3 reference letters, transcript,
- November 30 Deadline
- Evaluation based on Academic Performance, Scientific Merit of Proposal, Scientific Contributions Outside of Classroom.



Awards for Women in Science

- AAUW

- varies:

http://www.aauw.org/education/fga/fellowships_grants/index.cfm

- Association for Women in Science

- varies: www.awis.org

- Society of Women Engineers

- varies:

www.societyofwomenengineers.org

- Amelia Earhart Fellowships

- Nov. 15: www.zonta.org



Awards for Underrepresented Minorities

- NASA MUST (Motivating Undergraduates in Science and Technology)
 - March 1:
http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/programs/descriptions/Motivating_Undergraduates_Science_Technology.html
- GEM Fellowship
 - October 1: <http://www.gemfellowship.org/gem-fellowship/overview>
- Harriett G. Jenkins Pre-doctoral Fellowship Program (JPFP)
 - February 8:
<http://www.uncfsp.org/spknowledge/default.aspx?page=program.view&areaid=1&contentid=177&typeid=jpfp>

Awards for International Students

- Gates Cambridge Scholarship
 - Any international student except UK citizen
 - Graduate work at the University of Cambridge
 - October 15 and December 15
 - <http://www.gatesscholar.org/>
- Drexel Fellowships Office list
 - <http://www.drexel.edu/fellowships/search/noncitizen.html>
- Professional Societies
 - ASM, TMS, MRS, ACerS



ASM International Scholarships

- <http://asmcommunity.asminternational.org/portal/site/www/Foundation/Students/Scholarships/>
 - Scholarships vary in amount from \$1,500 to \$10,000
 - Open to international students
- Scholarship opportunities available from local Liberty Bell Chapter
 - <http://www.asm-philadelphia.com/>



Some Others to Consider

- Fulbright Scholarship
 - Oct: us.fulbrightonline.org
- Marshall Scholarship
 - Sept: www.marshallscholarship.org
 - Marshall Sherfield
- Boren Scholarship/Fellowship
 - Jan: www.borenawards.org



The Drexel Fellowships Office

- Identify opportunities
- Advice and counseling
- Application process
- Personal statements and essays
- Logistics

● ● ● | What you should be doing now

- Keep your grades up
- Get to know faculty
- Get involved
 - Seek out leadership roles and opportunities.
 - Research projects
 - Share your ideas
 - + Publications
 - + Conferences



Asking for Recommendations

- ***Extremely*** important.
- Choose carefully
 - × The best letters come from those who know you best.
 - × Cultivate faculty relationships over time.
- Approach potential recommenders **early**
 - × gauge their support
 - × give graceful ways out
 - × Give recommenders printed materials/clear instructions
- Keep in touch with recommenders after the application has gone out
 - Thank faculty members for their support and let them know when you hear.



A few Final Words

- Start early!!
- Get input from readers in and out of your field
- Revise revise revise. And revise again.
- Work closely with your recommenders on your application.
- Work closely with me throughout.
- Consider applying for more than one award.
- Try to represent your real self as best you can, then relax.



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