National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP)

Fellowship Information

Principal Investigator and Coordinating Official

- Principal Investigator: Dean Jim Antony
- Coordinating Official: Florenz Torralba

Contact your Coordinating Official by submitting a ticket in the Services & Support Portal for Student Support.

Employment

1. Updated guidance to all Institutions of Higher Education per the NSF GRFP Administrative Guide:
   a. “IHEs cannot require Fellows to participate in research assistantships or teaching assistantships as a method to make up the difference between the COE and the IHE’s regular tuition and fees (see also Section 3.10, below). Fellows may participate in assistantships but not as a means to pay for tuition or mandatory fees.”
2. Each Fellow is expected to devote full-time effort to advanced scientific study or work during Tenure. However, because it is generally accepted that teaching or similar activity constitutes a valuable part of the education and training of many graduate students, a Fellow may choose to undertake a reasonable amount of such activities with institutional approval.
3. Fellows in pursuit of employment while on active Tenure with the NSF need to work with their Academic Home Department to request an exception to policy. The request must describe the nature of employment, its relevance to the graduate degree program, number of hours per week or months of employment, and level of compensation. The request should be endorsed by the Fellow’s faculty advisor and signed by the graduate program chair. Requests will be reviewed by the Dean of Division of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs.
4. Obtaining outside employment (where the Fellow presumably cannot devote 100% time/effort to the NSF-funded research) while on Tenure may result in the forfeiture of the NSF stipend. Fellows are generally approved for a maximum of two exceptions for employment while on Tenure. Additional employment requests will be considered but approved only in exceptional circumstances.

Graduate Student Fellowship Exception Requests

Institutional Allowance

Division of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs will apply the $12,000 Cost-of-Education (COE) allowance provided by NSF toward student tuition and fees. Any remaining balance of tuition and fees not covered by the COE allowance will be paid by the graduate program. Nonresident supplemental tuition will be paid by your program for the first year only. Students are expected to file California Residency by the beginning of the second year. It is the student’s responsibility to take early action to ensure the change of residency classification is approved.

Instructions on how to change status from nonresident to resident are online at: https://students.ucsd.edu/finances/fees/residence/status-change.html. As a component of the total tuition and fee payments made during the academic year, student health insurance (GSHIP) will also be covered for the duration of the fellowship.

Division of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs will issue tuition and fee payments each quarter, but in order for the payments to apply to the student account, students must enroll in at least 12 units by the quarterly deadlines established by the Registrar’s Office. Any late fees incurred due to non-enrollment by the published registration deadlines are the student’s responsibility.

NSF Fastlane System

It is the student’s responsibility to read the NSF GRFP Administrative Guide and to comply with the Terms and Conditions they agreed to upon acceptance of the NSF GRFP award. This includes a responsibility to submit required reports to NSF via the NSF Fastlane system. Any changes (Tenure status, field of study, contact information, etc.) should be completed via the online system.

Resources

2. UC San Diego Enrollment and Registration Calendars: http://blink.ucsd.edu/instructors/courses/enrollment/calendars/index.html
4. UC San Diego NSF GRFP webpage: https://grad.ucsd.edu/financial/fellowships/funding-opportunities/nsf-grfp.html
6. UC San Diego Graduate Student Tax Information: https://grad.ucsd.edu/financial/tax-information.html
7. UC San Diego Services and Support Portal: https://support.ucsd.edu/services
Responsible Conduct of Research

Effective January 4, 2010, the America COMPETES Act mandates that all graduate students supported by the NSF must complete Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training. This requirement may be fulfilled through the UC San Diego Research Ethics Center, a nationally recognized program for RCR instruction. Their schedule of workshops is available at http://ethics.ucsd.edu/courses. For more information, please contact them at ethics@ucsd.edu or (858) 822-2647.

Stipend Schedule

The current NSF GRFP annual stipend level is $34,000. Fellows on Tenure can expect to receive monthly stipend payments in the amount of approximately $2,833. The monthly stipend will be paid on the first of the month for the prior month time period.

- Summer Tenure start: first stipend payment will be issued for the month of July on/around August 1st
- Fall Tenure start: first stipend payment will be issued for the month of September on/around October 1st.

We encourage students to set-up direct deposit to ensure expedient receipt of stipend payments. Information on direct deposit enrollment is available on the Student Financial Solutions website: https://sfs.ucsd.edu/student-accounts/direct-deposit.html. Otherwise, a paper check will be mailed to the academic home department’s mail code each month.

UC Patent Acknowledgement

All graduate students who are also University employees or who participate in an extramurally funded research project are required to sign the UC Patent Acknowledgement. This includes, but is not limited to, NIH, NSF and other federally-funded fellowships and traineeships. As the office of record for the NSF GRFP, Division of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs is required to ensure that the Campus is in compliance with this policy.

Division of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs will send reminders to the department coordinator requesting this form; please be sure to submit when requested. Blank Patent Agreements can be found and submitted on the Financial Support Request Tool Documentation page of the Collab.