Please stand by for realtime captions.

Reading the fine prints points of the graduate research Fellowship solicitation. To provide support for questions you may have in a variety of formats the graduate research Fellowship program has an active operation center with a help desk or you may call or email and have your questions answered. Today three presenters from the helpdesk number one Don Lewis. Secondly Sam Goodman and third Jerry -- will present. The presentation will be followed with a question and answer period where the graduate research Fellowship program directors will answer questions that you type in the chat box. We would love to hear from you so feel free to click the Q&A icon any time to submit questions for reply during the webinar. During the Q&A period. A recorded version of this presentation will be made available on the NSF GRF website. We will be sure to put those links in the chat. I will pass it over to the other presenters now.

Greetings and welcome to the GRF operation center reading the fine points of the GRF P solicitation. We will cover a variety of information today. Next slide.

Including the level types and the number of times you can apply. Previous graduate school experience. Joint BS/MS eligibility. Professional degrees. Citizenship and -- and questions you should research. Next slide.

The first thing we recommend applicants do is to give a thorough look at the current program solicitations. Solicitation number 21 602. This provides a really good overview of the eligibility requirements, the application cycle, the due dates, eligible fields of study, it is probably the most important document you will need when looking to see if this is the right program for you.

We also encourage all potential applicants to take the online eligibility questionnaire. This is located in SF GRP.org. The helpdesk we cannot certify that you are eligible for the program. The best way to do that is to go online and take this online quiz. It will walk you through step-by-step to see if you are eligible for the application. There is a lot of requirements so this is the best tool at your disposal.

Another good thing about the solicitation is walking to the major fields of study. This is a key part of the application -- selection a major field of study. Determine the application deadline brought disciplinary expertise of the reviewers who will review the application and the discipline of the graduate program if the fellowship is accepted. The major fields of study are listed below. They are listed in appendix assessment of the current solicitation. If you look at the current solicitation you can also see eligible subfields. Select the major field of study as well as a subfield.

Let's now go over the 4 different level types. Applicants should categorize themselves in one of the following. First we have level I. Level I includes undergrads individuals who have already received their bachelor's degrees and applicants never enrolled in a graduate degree granting program. We have level to which can be broken down into 2 sections. First-year graduate students who have never applied as either a previous graduate student or returning grant graduate student. The second group students currently enrolled in a joint bachelors Masters program. We have level III which includes individuals who are enrolled in a graduate program and have had no more than one academic year in the program. Applicants who have started a graduate program but have yet to finish Glatt graduate returning students who have never applied to the GRF P. Lastly we have level for applicants returning graduate students and have to satisfy both the following. Have had an interruption of two or more years prior to the deadline. And not currently enrolled during a time of application. Next slide.

That a number of times you can apply. Level I applicants which includes undergrads and individuals who have had who have their bachelor's but have yet to pursue any graduate level education. These individuals can apply an unlimited amount of times. Not meaning more than once per application cycle for multiple years. They can apply this year next year and so on. Then we have levels two through four at which includes individuals enrolled in a graduate program and applicants returning to graduate school. These applicants can only apply one's meaning once -- cycle only.

One of the questions we most often get asked is from students who have previous graduate experience. This gets a little bit tricky. The most important thing to remember applicants must have never earned a Masters of professional degree in any field or completed more than one academic year in a graduate degree granting program as indicated on the academic transcript unless they are returning to graduate study after an interruption of two or more consecutive years immediately preceding application deadline and they are not enrolled in the graduate degree program at the application deadline. If you earned a Masters degree you are currently enrolled in a doctoral program unfortunately you would not be eligible for the GRF P Fellowship. In addition it is also important to know the graduate coursework that was taken without being enrolled in a graduate agree granting program does not count toward the one year limit. If you two took a few isolated courses between undergraduate and graduate school that was not part of a degree that would not count. We get asked about questions from potential applicants who have earned a Masters degree outside the country. Your masters degree from a foreign institution is subject to the same rules as the rest of the GR FP fellows. If you earned it in Switzerland still count toward the application. In addition there is no exceptions for degrees earned in nonrelated fields. If you are a Masters degree in sociology and you are looking to pursue PhD in chemistry, that Masters was still count towards the previous graduate experience.

Once again we encourage you to go to the GA RP eligibility questionnaire. It will walk you through step-by-step in terms of what graduate experience you have. And if you would qualify based on the amount of experience that you have.

We also often get asked questions about joint bachelors Masters eligibility. This is specifically to what your institution considers a joint BS and MS degree. If you have a bachelors and Masters from the same undergraduate institution but it is not considered a joint degree by the registrar, this would not count toward the specific requirements. Individuals pursuing a joint Masters and bachelors degree are graduate students limited to one application. These individuals can apply either while enrolled in a joint degree program or as first-year doctoral students shortly after completion of the joint degree. All applicants enjoyed bachelors Masters degree programs must have completed three years in a joint program as of the application deadline. If you did not progress directly to a doctoral program you will not be eligible unless you've had a continuous interruption of at least two consecutive years immediately prior to the application deadline. And are not enrolled in a degree granting graduate program at the application deadline. More information about the joint bachelors and Masters eligibility requirements can be found in the current solicitation. >>> We get a lot of questions surrounding the types of degrees the GF RP does not support. The program only supports stem and stem education programs. Programs that do not require a thesis are categorized as professional degrees are therefore not supported. Examples of professional degrees are listed here.

Keep in mind dual degrees meaning in a degree attached with any of the listed programs be considered the same. For more guidance regarding eligible degree programs and field of study reach out to your academic advisor your PI or register.

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We also get many questions regarding citizenship and how the program defines it. The solicitation defined citizenship as a permanent resident a national which is defined as a native resident of the Commonwealth or territory of the United States and United States citizen. The definition does not include students under visa DACA recipients and individuals who have applied for citizenship and have not been granted by the deadline.

You take the eligibility questionnaire you will be able to determine whether you are eligible in these areas are not.

The helpdesk is more than happy to answer your questions. However we are limited in the areas of field of study and propose research technical issues and third-party issues. Often these come from professors on behalf of students. However there are resources out there. For help surrounding topics such as field of study and propose research contact your academic advisor PI or mentor. For technical assistance please contact NSF fast Lane.

There are a variety of resources that applicants can pursue to get the information they need. As we've stated earlier the current solicitation is always primary document to review to ensure that you are completing your application based on the requirements in the current solicitation. There are also frequently asked questions that you could go to before you contact the operation center because a lot of the questions that you have people previous hat as well. There are application components on the NSF GR FP.org/applicants website. Where you can actually look at the components of the application to see exactly what is required for those applications. And then finally you can go to the application module which is located on the research.gov/GR FP website. Specifically next slide.

The current solicitation can be found on the NSF GR FP -- applicants website as well as the research.gov website. You scroll down on the NSF GR FP.org site. Scroll down the blue panel on the left side of the screen. You can click on GRF program solicitation and when the page comes up you click again on the GRF program solicitation word.

Once you do that you will be taken to a screen where you can select the HTML version of the solicitation. Or you can select the PDF version of the solicitation. I also always recommend to people that call in to download the PDF so you can highlight specific issues that relate to your circumstances.

All applicants should read the current solicitation before they start the GR FP application. Because it contains important information about application terms and conditions eligibility requirements, application instructions, and the merit review criteria.

Next slide.

The frequently asked questions are on the same page of the NSF GR FP.org/applicants plan page. Scroll down the panel on the left side of the screen. Click on the FAQs. You can select either the frequently asked questions which are program related or you can select application technical questions which have to do with the research, I'm sorry the research.gov portal.

Next slide.

As mentioned earlier the application components are also located on the NSF GR FP.org/applicants page. If you scroll down the blue panel on the left side you will see application components. Asked to access the screenshots for East each component.

Or you can click on each of the components in the blue panel to get information specifically regarding the different application components.

Next slide.

You can go to the research.gov/GR FP/login to see a lot of information that is very relevant to the GR FP cycle. You click on the blue scroll down the blue panel on the left side of the screen. Click on the application. You click on the word here. It takes you directly to the fast Lane application module.

On this page you will see where you can create your account and then also log in to continue your application process. You will see the application deadline for each of the major fields of study. You will also see where the reference letters are due on October 29th. 2021. 5 p.m. Eastern standard Time. We recommend you ask your reference writers to submit their reference letters before that deadline just in case they have technical issues. If you also look on the left side of the screen on this page you will see access to the program solicitation. And you also will see application guidelines. And you will also see institution directory. Smoke this page is the jumpoff page for everything related to the GR FP.

The operation center can be reached by sending an email to info@NSF GR FP.org or you can phone us at 866-673-4737. We operate Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Eastern standard Time. You should also note an official eligibility determination can only be made from a complete submitted application. Again, feel free to take the self eligibility questionnaire at the website www.NSF GR FP.org. >>> At this moment we will we have been reviewing the Q&A panel. We have not received any questions. Yet. So if you have any questions feel free to click the Q&A button at the bottom and type in your question. So that the graduate research Fellowship directors can answer them live. We will wait for you to type your questions in. >> Thank you Doctor Adams and thank you to the team at the operation center for a really terrific presentation that goes over a lot of the major points that people should know about for the GR FP program at the National Science Foundation. We really appreciate your expertise and all the efforts you make to help the people that are applying for the graduate research Fellowship program. The information you provided was really really important. We hope there are some good questions that we can help in terms of helping people understand a little bit more about how the GR FP program works in terms of the applications.

Awesome. One of the questions we received is what is the best piece of advice you could give to a student as they crapped their personal statement and research narrative?

That is a really good question. I will start off. I'm Christopher Hill one of the program directors. We have some other program directors here and they might have a different perspective on that. But, one of the things you will notice if you look at the solicitation and if you look at the frequently asked questions, is that there is information there about the reviewers. When you write your statements you may think you may want to consider how the reviewers are going to be thinking about what you are writing. So one of the ideas behind that is to remember that the reviewers for National Science Foundation including the graduate research Fellowship program GR FP, are using 2 merit review criteria. One is intellectual merit. One is broader impacts. There is information about that in the solicitation about both of those criteria. Intellectual merit and broader impacts. So one of the things you could do when thinking about your statements is provide evidence that the reviewer is then could use in terms of evaluating your application based on those criteria that are used by the National Science Foundation.

Thank you Doctor Hill. Are there any fields of study that are highlighted by NSF this year as especially important? Last year they had 3 including computationally intensive.

NSF and the GR FP program encourage applications from all the fields of study that are listed in the appendix. And during the presentation the operation center staff mentioned that there are these major fields of study and then there are subfields within those. NSF is interested in applications that cover all the areas of science engineering technology and math that are funded by the National Science Foundation. That are listed in the back of this solicitation. You will also see there is some information more detailed information and even links you can go to in terms of the kinds of encouragement the National Science Foundation makes in terms of thinking about national investments in science. But, the main message is that the graduate research Fellowship program and the National Science Foundation are interested in funding the future scientists of our country through GR FP. We are interested in scientists from all those fields. So we really encourage you to if you are eligible and if you are thinking about doing a graduate degree program in one of those fields, a Masters or doctoral program research-based program in one of those fields, that you first see if you are eligible and then apply for the program.

Thank you. The next question received is, if a follow-up question to that was for a point of clarification, there aren't any this year, is that correct?

When you submit an application, you have to pick a major field of study. These subfields. And then what is going to happen is your application is going to be looked at by a panel connected with experts from that major field of study. The evaluation process is the same for every single application. There are no differences. In terms of the way one application is reviewed in the other. We are using the same criteria. The same evaluation process for all the applications.

Thank you for that point of clarification. Another question has to do with -- font sizes and if a figure is added -- the research statement with a caption, but the caption is tormented as part of the figure rather than the text of the document. Can the font be smaller than 11 point?

This is a technical question. When you submit your application, if it will be taken, through the system you will know for sure whether it will work. But in general, if you have an image and I think this is what is being described as an example where the image includes font sizes that are different than what would be required for the text. If they are in that the image they are not going to be included in terms of the compliance connected with the text. They are part of the image. So if that is the question, then the image should -- any font size within the image should be okay.

That is my understanding at least.

Got it. At this moment we do not have any other questions yet in the Q&A. Folks, just as a reminder if you click the Q&A icon at the bottom of the screen, you will be able to type in any questions that you have. And we will answer them live. I think I saw I had a notice about if depending on the field of study if there are different deadlines for this -- can you speak to that Doctor Hill?

The question is about different deadlines for the application.

Depending on what field of study.

That is an important question. I'm glad somebody asked about that. The application deadline week starts on October 18th. Less than a month away. And on October 18th, that is the deadline for life sciences. This is one of the reasons why we emphasized the operations center mentioned the fields of study are so important. The fields of study your choice of a field of study is important as I mentioned because it leads to what panel your application is reviewed in. It is also important because it is connected with a commitment you have for the first year in terms of what graduate program field of study you are going to be in. And the third major reason connected with the field of study, that is important is the deadline. So, if you're going into the life sciences. If you're proposing to do graduate study in the life sciences your deadline is October 18th. The next day, October 19th, if you're in computer and information sciences and engineering. Materials research. Psychology. Social sciences and stem education research and learning. That deadline is October 19th. Then there is a day we skip. Then October 21st is the deadline for engineering. The final deadline day for the applications is October 22nd. 2021. The field of study are chemistry, geosciences, mathematical sciences and physics and astronomy. So your deadline day depends on what major field of study you have.

Now there is another thing connected with the deadline day. Is that you have to as part of the application indicate your mailing address. That is used as a way of determining your application has been received, received by NSF by 5 p.m. local town -- local time of the applicant's mailing address. Those are two important things. One has to do specifically with field of study. In terms of the date the deadline day. Then the time has to do with your mailing address.

Thank you for that. Related is a question about if you have any tips for selecting fields for research interests that are interdisciplinary.

One thing, one tip is to talk to your faculty members and your mentors. About this. And another tip is connected with what I a reminder that major field of study is a commitment by you in terms of what area -- what department and what program of graduate study you are going to go to for that first year of the fellowship. You have to be very careful to make sure that you are selecting a major field of study that is connected with where you are going to go or are planning on going for your graduate study program. >> So if selected for a fellowship are we restricted to go into a graduate program in our chosen field and or subfield?

Yes, the first year this is very clear in the solicitation. Read it carefully. You will see that you must be in a program that is connected with that major field of study. That first year. That is partly connected with the panel review process. The people that are looking at your application and they are looking at the entire application. They are experts within that major field of study. That general field of study. They are evaluating it and comparing it to other applications that are in that major field of study. That is part of why you need to be inking about first the field of study and then how that is connected with where you plan to attend graduate school.

So what happens if my given subfield is not listed?

Well it may be that you are not eligible. So, if your major field is listed, and then the subfield is not, then one option you have for all the major fields you will see is an other. And then in parentheses specified. Within the application for any major field of study, you can pick other and then provide more information.

Can you explain how NSF defines the broader impacts? Is a focus on the impact of your research in the field of study or on your own professional impact to the field of study?

That is a terrific question. There are details about NSF merit review criteria. Both the intellectual merit and the broader impacts. My first suggestion is you read that very carefully. Because it is the criteria used throughout the National Science Foundation NSF. And is applied by the graduate research Fellowship program G RFP. But the way you asked the question is very useful. And remember that broader impacts could be the research. The broader impacts of the research or because G RFP's and application submitted by an individual, the reviewers for G RFP could consider broader impacts of the individual. So both are possible. Broader impacts could be you could provide evidence or examples of how your research is connected with broader impacts. Or the broader impacts of you as an individual in terms of your potential to be a high achieving stem -- a scientist or engineer or mathematician.

Thank you Doctor Hill. Any tips on differentiating broader impacts in the research plan versus the personal statement?

One of things to think about with the personal statement is this is a three-page statement. You can think about it in terms of what you have already done. And what you are doing now. What you might do in the future and how they are connected. That is one aspect of or an approach at least you can consider in terms of the personal statement. That might include your past experiences. Both in terms of research and why you are motivated to be to go into science as a career. Now, the research statement is really an opportunity to kind of show off a little bit about how you are thinking as an early career scientist. Come up with a great idea that you could use in terms of a research plan. NSF is not actually thinking of this is something that you are going to be committed in terms of NSF. To actually do. But it should be something that provides an example how you are thinking about science and engineering and math. And a project that is something that connects with your past experience. But provides an opportunity for you to show how the kind of method you would use. The approach you would take. What you would do with the results. And what you might where you might take your research once you have completed it. How you would measure its success. Those kinds of things. It is really an opportunity you could think of it as an opportunity to provide the reviewers for NSF and for the G RFP program with evidence or examples you have of how you are taking as an early career scientist. About research projects. How you are thinking.

I have a few technical questions about formatting and font size and double spacing. What would you say to those kinds of questions?

The best thing to do is to look at the solicitation. If you have very specific questions there is a great team you have already been introduced to. They can provide you with additional information. Basically they can talk to you about the kinds of information that is provided in the solicitation. And in the FAQs to make sure you understand what that information is. You should also know that when you -- when you submit your application, you won't be able to be received by NSF unless it is compliant in terms of the formatting. One suggestion would be to submit early and then if there is something that leads to the application not being able to be received by NSF you will have an opportunity to fix that.

So if I completed the first year of my PhD and I'm starting my second year but I have one semester of Masters work in a different field, does this disqualify my application?

There will be potentially a lot of questions like this that are very detailed we might have to ask a lot of secondary questions to make sure we answer in the best way. But, let me provide some general principles connected with eligibility. And hopefully they will help you understand the process a little bit. But if you really want more information about this, first take that eligibility quiz. That is available at NSF G RFP.org. Then you can also get a little bit of feedback in terms of eligibility criteria if you have taken that and you still feel that you want a little bit more of a customized answer. You can contact the great people at the G RFP NSF G RFP operation center. So in general, if you are a graduate student, there are very strict requirements connected with eligibility. The first general restriction is that as a graduate student, you only have a chance to apply once. As a graduate student. So if you have already completed a full year of graduate school at a graduate degree program, and you are starting your second year but you have not completed more than one full year. Based on the kind of criteria you find in the solicitation, you are likely to be eligible. Unless there is some other reason. But in terms of those categories, person that is a graduate student who has not completed more than one full year with the -- would be eligible.

If you have completed more than one full year, for example you have a Masters degree or you have completed let's say it took you 2 years to complete your Masters degree. You have completed more than one full year. There is an option, an opportunity where you could be eligible. This was mentioned several times by the operation center staff. In that situation if you have a Masters degree for example that led to you having more than one full year, then if you have been out of school for at least 2 full years. 2 consecutive years and you are currently not enrolled. So you are currently not enrolled in a graduate program. Under those circumstances you could be eligible.

Now, as I said the best way is to look at this solicitation and to take the questionnaire. Those are the best things to do.

What is the percent success rate of applications? Is the number of awards correlated to the specific major focuses?

No, over all there are if you look historically, there are about 12 or 13,000 applications that are submitted that are reviewed by NSF. And then at least the last couple years there have been about 2000 applications that have been selected for fellowships. So that means that over all there is about, 16% -- plus or minus a little bit. And they are not based strictly on being in one field or another field. They are across all fields.

If I could so for everybody on the call, I am Joel another one of the program directors. I've been slacking here and letting my much more knowledgeable colleague here pick up the slack. One thing to point out a couple things to point out about the percent success rate. One is that if you go into the solicitation and compare it to say the solicitation the most recent previous solicitation, you will see that the number of awards is going to increase. So assuming that there is not a significant jump in the number of applications that percent success rate should climb a bit. The second thing is that we've got a couple of tears that are officially recognized. So of course those applicants who are rated most highly are awarded the fellowship including the stipend. There is for those who whose applications are considered meritorious but not quite of in that range to be acknowledged, there is the honorable mention. And of course, you would definitely prefer to have the stipend. But something like the honorable mention is probably -- broadly recognized. If you have that on your curriculum vitae or your resume, and you are applying for jobs or for graduate programs that is going to be recognized as an indication of some real accomplishment. Keep it in mind. Please don't be discouraged by the success rate. Because it is not quite as dismal as it may first appear. >> Thank you. If you receive an honorable mention can you reapply if you meet the criteria to apply a second time?

If you are eligible still. So for example if you were -- some kinds of ways that you would likely be able to apply again. If you applied is a level I and you received an honorable mention, then as long as you were still a level I the next year you could apply. You could also apply one time as a graduate student. Because remember as a level one you could apply as many times. Every year you are still a level one. Once you get into grad school you can only apply once. In the situation where you applied as a graduate student, I guess you know what can happen. That was your chance. So you don't get a second chance if you are an honorable mention. You applied once as a graduate student. That would be the only time you would be able to apply. It would depend on the circumstances. It is based on your situation in terms of the first time you applied and then whether or not you are a grad student a second time.

Can you clarify level I?

Sure. It is a great question. Do you want to try to answer that?

I will try. Level I is anyone who is a current undergraduate. Or someone who has earned their baccalaureate degree but who is not currently in a graduate program.

Perfect

Are you sure? Okay.

Never been a graduate student before.

We have on the screen here the 4 levels defined. Just to clarify what that was. But thank you very much.

If there is an applicants time zone -- the applicant's time zone is different than the reference writers time zone are the reference writers required to submit their letter by 5 p.m. on October 29th of the applicant's time zone?

That is a really good question. Whoever asked that one that is the bonus question. This is the thing you have to let your reference writers know. There are two different kinds of time deadlines for whatever deadline day you have. So let's take them one at a time here. So for the application, when it is submitted you remember we talked about this. The major field of study that is going to determine the day. And then the time on that day is going to be depending on the applicant's mailing address. Put that aside now. Everybody's got that. So then the next week, the 29th that is the day for every reference letter writer. There are no different dates for submitting that. There is only one time, it is 5 p.m. Eastern time. Eastern time. Everybody has to get that letter in. Actually what you should be telling if there are any reference letter writers on right now. Or if you know of somebody that is supposed to submit one. Tell them to get it in two or three days before. So it is not a situation where they have to worry about this. They need to have those letters in definitely on the 29th by 5 p.m. Eastern time. So there are two totally different systems being used. One for applications and one for the reference writers.

Whoever asked that question, that is super super important.

Let me just explain why. If you don't get two letters in, NSF is not going to even look at your application. You have to have 2 of those letters submitted.

Thank you. At this moment we don't have any other questions in the queue. I will wait a couple minutes and remind our participants hear that while you have the program directors is a wonderful opportunity to ask questions you might have. You would click the Q&A icon at the bottom of the screen and type your question in the chat. We will have them verbally answer it.

Doctor -- what question do you think is most important question we should make sure everybody has an answer to?

The most important -- let me try to a couple things. One is regarding the what is a recommendation? So I imagine everyone here on the call has managed to successfully get into a university. This recommendation may be superfluous. It is not a bad idea when you ask for your letter of recommendation to ask would it be helpful if I sent you reminders? As long as you are not annoying the letter writers. Sometimes it is getting those weekly reminders. For me personally it is always advantageous. Then you might not need to worry about what particular time zone on October 29th is the target.

I think one thing probably the most important thing when you are preparing the application is to realize that it is the applicant's who are considered, not the proposed research exclusively. Whatever you can do to capture in your application who you are, and why the National Science Foundation should make this investment in you. That I would argue is the way to go. As an extension of that, you could treat the research, the proposed research segment not so much as a very defined scientific or engineering pathway that you intend to go down. But more as a way to demonstrate I've got some skills. I've got some knowledge. And any investment in me would be well spent. So however you can best do that. I think is likely to benefit you in the end.

That is a great idea. Those are great ideas. That is a good message to send.

One of the things about those reference letters, NSF's review criteria of intellectual merit and broaden broader impacts. Besides you writing about that in your statements, it might be good to remind your reviewer, your reference letter writers that is what the reviewers are going to be looking at in the entire application. If your references can provide ammunition connected with the broader impacts and intellectual merit that would be helpful to the reviewers when they are evaluating it. That is pretty good. Besides you becoming a scholar of the solicitation, you may want to help your reference letter writers understand how NSF is going to look at the entire application including those letters they send in.

Then again to what Doctor -- said, it doesn't matter if it is a great letter if it is not submitted. Make sure it gets sent in. When you start to apply it is a pretty incredible and fairly sophisticated application system that NSF has. For G RFP. One of the things that is in there is you can monitor whether those letters have been submitted or not. So you can kind of see. You can look and say those letters are not there yet. Or you can see which ones are there or something like that. I can't remember exactly how it works.

Our final questions one has to do with if for the unfortunate to obtain an award, can I take it anywhere or MI tied to the University I listed in my application?

You are not tied to that institution. But you can't take it anywhere. There are some requirements. For example you cannot take it to some international non-US nonaccredited institution. You cannot take it to a nonaccredited institution in the U.S. It has to be a nonprofit accredited institution. The actual details for this you guessed it. They are in the solicitation. But basically, if the question is well, on my application I said I was going to XYZ University XYZ. And then when you after you submit the application, you actually apply to 5 different places. And besides XYZ you also get into ABC University ABC. The University ABC is eligible for NSF's G RFP. They are an accredited nonprofit U.S. institution. See the details in the solicitation. Then you can move to that one. In other words, NSF will what will happen is you get this letter from NSF. It will say congratulations, we offer you a fellowship. One of the next steps you have to do is tell us that you are going to accept the fellowship. You also have to tell us where you are going to use it. That is called the declaration. You declare where you are going to use your fellowship and whether you are going to for that first year use the money or go on reserve. And save the money for another year. A different year.

What we call that is portability. You can move from whatever institution you mentioned in your application. You could go to a different place. Based on where you can get in, and whether that institution is eligible. The other thing that is kind of a follow-up to this kind of question is, if you finish if you're at one institution and you finish your graduate studies with your masters degree in one or two years at that institution. And you still have some of the fellowship available, then as long as you are continuously enrolled, that is one of the requirements. You have to be an active fellow. You have to be enrolled in a graduate program. You could potentially go to a different institution. You can start in one institution and then go to another institution.

Change universities.

Thank you. There are some questions. I would just ask them. They some of them are technical or specific to a particular research focus. I think official question scripts acceptable is what specific research focus should I pick? If it is bioinformatics or this that count as dialogical life science or computer information sciences and engineering? What would you say to these kinds of questions?

The transcript question is straightforward. You must submit your transcripts for your bachelors degree. You must submit transcripts that are connected with any degree program graduate degree program you are in. They can be either official or unofficial. They can't be have a special password or anything like that connected with them. They have to be submitted in the way they are readable through the system. That other question, that is exactly the kind of thing right at the end of the presentation by the operations center they said where can you find help in terms of your application? In terms of that kind of question about a particular field of study, we've already mentioned kind of the requirements connected with NSF. You know the rules now. You've heard the rules. The major field of study is connected with what? Can you remember major field of study is used in terms of your panel review. 2 it is a commitment for the second -- commitment to where you are going in terms of the graduate degree program you are going to be enrolled in for your first year. You remember the third one? About the deadline day. So those are the 3. Besides those requirements, you need to say connected with that what one would I be able to get help with from my mentor? Or my faculty advisor. Those three the one that probably they would be most helpful with is the one about where are you thinking of going to graduate school. What kind of graduate program will you be enrolled in? That you will see talk to your advisor. Take that list in the back of the solicitation. Figure out how that works for you. It is going to be very specific to where what your career intentions are. What your goals are. And where you can get into grad school. Way you are eligible and where you are prepared to be able to be admitted to grad school. You need to look at that. Look at that very carefully. One suggestion is to use the resources of faculty advisors and faculty mentors that have some experience with helping people think about where they are going to grad school. Think about how that matches with the requirements of the G RFP.

Great. There are a couple questions about the reference letters and -- so one person said they have 4 letters. 2 for co-advisors and grad school. A supervisor for industry internship and API from undergrad. Are there any benefits to choosing a certain combination of these as my top 3 writers?

There might be. Reviewers are going to look at your application. Based on those NSF a National Science Foundation merit review criteria. Remember what those are? Intellectual merit and broader impacts. So you could strategize a little bit. You could look at the list of reference writers and see which one of those can best provide information to the National Science Foundation the reviewers for the application. That can best provide information connected with the review criteria. You will notice in the solicitation we are very specific that you cannot ask a family member. Even if they are an expert. Obviously they might be an expert in you. They might also be an expert any major field of study. You cannot do that. But besides that think about this in terms of somebody is going to look at your application. They are supposed to be looking at it in terms of the National Science Foundation review criteria. What reference writers can best give us information about that?

Doctor Hill did we talk about the order of the letters are considered? The fact students are able to applicants are able to actually put them in rank order?

That is a really good question. A reminder, here are some things about the reference letters that are really important. The first thing is that you have the option to list 5 of them. Just like Doctor mentioned you can list these kind of rank these. Number one, number two, number three, number four and number five. You have to give us the name of at least 3 reference writers. That is a requirement. For it to be submitted within the system you have to provide the names of 3. You can add 2 more. Out of those 5 let's say for some reason your number one pick, taking a trip and happens to be gone. Isn't near an Internet. Can't send in a letter of reference by the 29th. What will happen then? Your number 2 reference writer will move up to number 1. Number three will move up to number two. And number four will move up to number three. And you will have 3 letters. If you list 5 people you've got a little bit of insurance. Remember 2 of them have to get to us. NSF must receive 2. If we get only one letter, the answer is we are not even going to look at your application. It is not going to be reviewed. You must give us 3 names. You can list up to 5. At least 2 of those reference letters have to get to NSF by the deadline. Get it in a before. Have them get it in before.

The last question is are there attributes of the references that the reviewers take into consideration? Whether they are working in the field of discipline that the applicant applied to.

What the reviewers are going to do is they are going to say what does this letter tell me about intellectual merit? What does this letter tell me about broader impacts? Just like you they can read the solicitation. And see that there is a description of what intellectual merit is. And a description of what broader impacts is. So they will take that letter. They're supposed to look at the entire application including the letters for evidence based on these National Science Foundation review criteria. You should help the reviewers by providing asking references, people to write letters that can provide that kind of information to the reviewers for the National Science Foundation.

That would be the reasonable suggestion. >> At this moment we don't have any other questions in the Q&A queue.

One of the most important tips that the National Science Foundation can give you in terms of the graduate research Fellowship program is that all the effort put into the application will not help you at all if you do not submit it. It must be received by the National Science Foundation. By your deadline. One big tip is to get it in a week before. You are all at ease. No stress. You have your application in. It has been submitted by the deadline. You must submit. It must be received by NSF. You cannot be selected for a fellowship if the application is not received by NSF by the deadline. Because then it won't be reviewed. If it is not reviewed is not going to be in the pool of potential applications to be considered for selection.

So send your application and pick do it early so you don't have to worry about it. >> Thank you Doctor Hill. Where there any final words from the program directors? >> A couple of very quick things. One again, just realized that what your role is in preparing the application is to make the best case for yourself as to why the National Science Foundation should invest in you and your future. Another thing to keep in mind while you are doing it preparing it, just realized that these are going to be reviewed by people who are have subject's beauties. Expertise. And are familiar with your sort of broadly speaking your area you intend to go into. But realize these are regular folks. You want to make their job as easy as possible. You might for example get away with small font and a -- legend. If you've got some old codger like me who is reading that figure legend and can barely make it out you are not making the job easier. Whatever you can do to make sure that your application is readable. That it is clear in that it makes a great case for you. Go ahead and do it. That is what I would suggest. >> We are really happy to have this opportunity to talk to you today about the National Science Foundation and the graduate research Fellowship program G RFP. It is an important program at the National Science Foundation. The mission of the National Science Foundation is to promote the progress of science. And the goals of the graduate research Fellowship program are to find great talent. Early career scientists and also to broaden participation in science and our country. So we hope that the graduate research Fellowship program can be seen as an investment in the future of our country an investment in the future of science. We really think it is an important program. We are very grateful for your interest in the National Science Foundation. And G RFP. We thank you so much for asking all these good questions. And want to remind you that there are lots of good resources connected with the application. The most important resource right off would be that website that people have mentioned. Go to NSF G RFP.O RG. You will fine links to all sorts of information. That will help you with your application. >> Thank you everyone. >>

[Event Concluded]