DID YOU APPLY? LET US KNOW!

Are you applying for the NDSEG, SMART, or another fellowship this semester? Please let us know by filling out this brief survey.

The Office of Graduate Education collects this information so we can better tailor our outreach and advising. Some fellowships require Institute supplementation or facilitation—help us ensure your funding transition goes smoothly by letting us know where you’ve applied.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

New and early-stage doctoral students may be eligible to apply for a number of large, multi-year fellowships. These are the awards most often won or pursued by Rensselaer students:

DECEMBER deadlines
• **National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship (NDSEG).** 3 years of funding. Disciplines: STEM. Eligibility: PhD student in 1st or 2nd year of study.

• **SMART Scholarship.** Up to 5 years of funding. Disciplines: STEM. Eligibility: Graduate student able to accept paid summer research internships and post-graduation employment at a Dept. of Defense lab (one year of employment for each year of funding).

**JANUARY DEADLINES**

• **Department of Energy Computational Science Graduate Fellowship (DOE CSGF).** Up to 4 years of funding. Disciplines: STEM. Eligibility: 1st year PhD student.
  
  o **New track this year:** for students in math or computer science, with a focus on issues in HPC as a broad enabling technology and not on a particular science or engineering application.

• **Department of Energy Nuclear Energy University Program (DOE NEUP).** Up to 3 years of funding. Disciplines: Nuclear Science & Engineering. Eligibility: 1st year PhD student. *Program solicitation and deadline for 2018 not yet announced.*

• **Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration Stewardship Science Graduate Fellowship (DOE NNSA SSGF).** Up to 4 years of funding. Disciplines: high energy density physics, nuclear science, or properties of materials under extreme conditions and hydrodynamics. Eligibility: PhD student in 1st or 2nd year of study.

**EXPLORE MORE OPPORTUNITIES**

• Find links to graduate funding databases [here](#).
FEATURED OPPORTUNITIES

Chateaubriand Fellowship Program. 4-9 month doctoral fellowships to conduct research in France. US citizens and international students are eligible. Two tracks: STEM and Humanities & Social Sciences. Deadline: January 16, 2018.

- The Embassy of France in Washington, DC, is offering additional Chateaubriand Fellowships for projects related to Earth System Science, Climate Change and Sustainability, and Energy Transition.

American Association of University Women (AAUW).

- International Fellowships: for international students enrolled in graduate school full-time. Deadline: December.

APPLICATION ADVISING

The Office of Graduate Education offers one-on-one advising to help you submit the most competitive application. To ensure a productive meeting:

- Discuss a draft of your research statement with your advisor before requesting an appointment.
• Send your materials to be reviewed no later than 24 hours before your scheduled appointment. If your appointment is on a Monday, your materials are due the previous Friday by 5pm.

Book online, or email Alice Broussard to schedule an appointment.

ESSAY BANK

Book online to review successful RPI applications to the NDSEG, SMART, NEUP, Fulbright, AAUW, and more.

NOVEMBER WRITING TIP

Read your work aloud.

• Catch typos you wouldn't otherwise see
• Identify awkward phrases that can be simplified
• Break up overly long sentences -- if you can't say it without running out of breath, odds are good it will be confusing to your readers

Cultivate your inner editor by finding ways to see your work with fresh eyes. And slow down. Reading aloud helps. So does setting aside your writing for a few days between drafts.
FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

Samuel A. Walker
Dept. of Energy Nuclear Energy University
Program Fellow
PhD candidate, Nuclear Engineering and Science
Advisor: Wei Ji

Research interests: Simulating and understanding the multi-physics interactions in next generation reactor designs. My focus is the Molten Salt Reactor, which uses a liquid fuel as opposed to the conventional solid fuel reactors. This design has a number of safety and economic benefits. It could transform the nuclear energy if the regulatory and engineering challenges can be overcome.

Q: What inspired you to apply for fellowships?
A: My advisor, Dr. Wei Ji, encouraged me and gave me invaluable advice on how to write my research statements. More importantly, my true inspiration came from my lovely wife, Ellena, and my handsome baby boy, Clayton. I wanted to ensure my graduate experience at RPI wouldn’t be a financial stress on our growing family, so I was motivated to give my all when applying for these opportunities. I made it through application season with their support and encouragement.

Q: Did you apply to multiple fellowships?
A: In all, I applied to the NSF GRFP, Hertz, NASA NSTRF, DOD NDSEG, DOE CSGF, DOE NNSA SSGF, and the DOE NEUP. I received a lot of rejections, but was ecstatic to have two successful applications: the DOE NEUP and the NSF GRFP.
Q: What was your main takeaway from the application process?
A: I learned how to write a strong and convincing research statement that communicates exactly what I hope to accomplish during my PhD and why my research is worth investing in.

Q: What’s your #1 tip for future applicants?
A: Read the fellowship application prompts very carefully and get a feel for the type of research or person that the fellowship is interested in funding. Then do everything in your power to illustrate how you and your research align with the specific goals of the fellowship.

Q: Which aspect of the DOE NEUP is most valuable to you?
A: The higher living stipend is definitely the biggest immediate factor for my family and me. Fellowship stipends are still intended to support a single person, but the increase over TA or RA stipends make them especially valuable for small families. The DOE NEUP fellowship also comes with an internship at a national laboratory, which will be an indispensable element to my research and future career in nuclear energy.