Fall is fellowship deadline season!

UPCOMING WORKSHOP

**Intro to External Funding.** Fellowships allow you to set your own research agenda and often confer greater financial benefits than institute funding. They also carry prestige and help develop your career. In this session we'll cover the basics, including where to search for funding and what goes into a successful application. Join Alice Broussard, graduate fellowship advisor, to learn about opportunities for full fellowships with stipends, travel grants, opportunities for research abroad, and more. External funding is not just for US citizens! We'll discuss options for international students as well.

- Monday, October 2, 2017. 12 - 1pm. Union 3202. [Register](#).

FALL DEADLINES: NEW PHD STUDENTS
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:

**OCTOBER deadlines**

- **National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP)**. 3 years of funding within a 5-year period. Disciplines: STEM and STS. Eligibility: PhD student in 1st or 2nd year of study. May apply only once as a graduate student.
- **Hertz Fellowship**. Up to 5 years of funding. Disciplines: STEM. Eligibility: 1st year PhD student.

**NOVEMBER deadlines**

- **Ford Predoctoral Fellowship**. 3 years of funding within a 5-year period. Disciplines: All. Eligibility: Planning a career in teaching and research at the college/university level; sustained personal commitment to communities underrepresented in the academy.
- **GEM Fellowship**. Up to 5 years of funding and a paid internship with sponsoring employer. Disciplines: STEM. Eligibility: African American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Native.

**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).

- **National Physical Science Consortium Fellowship (NPSC)**. Up to 6 years of funding. Disciplines: STEM. Eligibility: PhD student able to accept two paid summer internships; emphasis on recruitment of a diverse applicant pool.

### FEATURED OPPORTUNITIES


**SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowships**. NSF’s Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) supports research in a broad range of disciplines and in interdisciplinary areas through its Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS) Division, Social and Economic Sciences (SES) Division, and SBE Office of Multidisciplinary Activities (SMA). Deadline: November 1, 2017

**CCST Science & Technology Policy Fellowships**. Gain real-world experience working with leaders in the California state government. Register for a virtual info session on Sept. 28 to learn more.

### SEARCH FOR FUNDING
Use advanced search functions in these **GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP DATABASES** to find opportunities that match your interests:

- University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
- Duke
- Rutgers
- University of Chicago
- Cornell

Sign up for [GrantForward](#). Graduate students and faculty: Use your Rensselaer email address to create a [Researcher Profile](#) and get personalized funding recommendations delivered straight to your inbox.

Are you a member of the **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION(s)** in your discipline? In addition to helping build your network, many offer some form of graduate funding, and most of that is available to international students.

**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.
Email Alice Broussard to schedule an appointment, or book online.

**DROP-IN HOURS.** Stop in, get answers to your fellowship questions, and check out the new Off Campus Commons.

- Wednesday, September 20, 2017. 3:30 - 5pm. Off Campus Commons (1525 15th Street, at the corner of 15th and College. Entrance off the parking lot.)

**WRITING RESOURCES**

**Writing in the Sciences.** This free, self-paced online course offered by Stanford covers everything from sentence-level issues like wordiness and verb choice to formatting a manuscript and communicating science to a non-technical audience. It is highly recommended by graduate students and faculty alike.

[Alex Lang’s NSF GRFP website](#) contains numerous examples of successful applications from all disciplines.

**On-Campus essay bank.** Email Alice Broussard or book online to review successful RPI applications to the NSF GRFP, NDSEG, SMART, Fulbright, AAUW, and more.

**SEPTEMBER WRITING TIP**
Avoid sentences anyone could have written--i.e., general statements about your love of learning, longstanding interest in the field, desire to advance knowledge, etc. Reviewers read dozens of fellowship applications, and yours needs to stand out. Strive to be as specific as possible. If you catch yourself writing a general statement, ask yourself why--why are you interested in the field, why is it so important to advance knowledge in your particular research area? Your answer is the sentence you should include in your application.

FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

Kayla Coldsnow
NSF Fellow
PhD candidate, Biology
Advisor: Rick Relyea

Research interests: Investigating how humans are affecting organisms in freshwater ecosystems to better inform conservation efforts.

Q: What inspired you to apply for the NSF GRFP?
A: My lab has a good track record of obtaining the NSF GRFP and other fellowships. They, especially my advisor, encouraged me and helped me apply for the fellowship
Q: Did you apply for other fellowships at the same time?
A: No, but I first applied for the NSF GRFP in Fall 2015. I won the fellowship with my second application.

Q: What did you learn during the application process?
A: Most importantly, the application process taught me how to write concise, well-written, informative sentences. And I will use these writing skills in other applications and manuscripts.

Q: What’s your #1 tip for future applicants?
A: Sit down to think and organize! You need to come up with a hook or theme that will keep the reviewer interested and also show that you are worth investing in—all within a total of 5 pages. Avoid a boring reiteration of your CV for a personal statement, or a research proposal that is either not well thought out or missing information because of a lack of space.

Q: Which aspect of the NSF GRFP is most valuable to you?
A: The freedom. Being on the fellowship opens up a ton of time that I don’t have to teach. This allows me more time to conduct research, attend events, and move my schedule around to do other things. Also, being paid by the NSF GRFP as opposed to by your advisor, I feel allows you to be a bit more flexible with your projects and topics. Overall it has made me a lot more productive, which I am sure will be valuable when applying for jobs in the future.

FELLOWS IN THE NEWS

- Anthony D’Amato, NYS Dept of Health Spinal Cord Injury Research Board Predoctoral Fellowship - Biomedical Engineering
- Christopher Johnson, NYS Dept of Health Spinal Cord Injury Research Board Predoctoral Fellowship - Biomedical Engineering
• **Emily Kosmaczewski**, Fulbright - Physics
• **Christopher Sprague**, NSF EAPSI - Aeronautical Engineering
• **Ezra Teboul**, Artist-in-Residence - Arts

**MORE RECENT FELLOWSHIP WINNERS**

• **Elizabeth Capogna**, Life Quality Solutions Incubator Fellowship - Biomedical Engineering
• **Justin Clough**, SMART - Mechanical Engineering
• **Kayla Coldsnow**, NSF GRFP - Biology
• **Trilce Encarnacion**, WTS Helene M. Overly Memorial Scholarship - Transportation Engineering
• **Denzel Faulkner**, GEM Associate Fellow - Biomedical Engineering
• **Shelby Hayostek**, NSF GRFP - Aeronautical Engineering
• **Areej Jahangir**, Berkeley-AIPS Urdu Language Program - Science & Technology Studies
• **Antwane Mason**, GEM Fellow - Computer Science
• **Michael McKay**, NDSEG - Aeronautical Engineering
• **Alli Morgan**, NSF GRFP - Science & Technology Studies
• **Vipula Rawte**, GHC Conference Scholarship - Computer Science
• **Aaron Rowen**, SMART - Industrial Engineering
• **Nwaram-Billi Ugboe**, AAUW Selected Professions - Architecture
• **Dustin Schroeder**, Life Quality Solutions Incubator Fellowship - Biomedical Engineering
• **Sam Walker**, NEUP - Nuclear Engineering
• **Evan Wilson**, IESNYC merit scholarship - Architecture