

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) proposal writing seminar

Hi folks,

We will be organizing the GRFP writing seminar again this year as an ECL298 (CRN is 28909). This announcement has a lot of important information so please read it carefully. We meet once a week for two hours over five weeks in sections of 5-6 students where you read and critique each other's proposal drafts. We've had a high success rate historically –last year 26% of participants in the workshop were awarded GRFPs.

We'd like to develop a sense for how many people are planning to enroll so we can arrange an appropriate number of sections. Please [sign up on the google sheet](#) if you plan take the course (you can indicate your commitment as YES or MAYBE). We try to accommodate students from other graduate groups, but preference is given to GGE students when space is limited.

We'll have a [Zoom organizational meeting on Friday 9/6/2023 at 9:00am](#), which is the Friday of the week before we start meeting regularly. Each of the individual sections will start meeting the following week at a day/time as yet to be determined. Sections are comprised of 5-6 students with a faculty lead. They meet for about 2 hours once a week. Each section can decide if they'd prefer to meet in person or on zoom. Zoom has worked well in recent years by accommodating students who may still be in the field. We will have a course BOX folder with some examples of prior GRFP applications that were funded for you to look through ahead of our first meeting.

Our time together goes fast ahead of the GRFP submission deadline. We will begin discussing and giving feedback on the above documents right away. To make the most of the workshop, please aim to have the following by our first meeting:

1. Full draft of your personal statement
2. Outline of your research statement

Please post draft documents to group folders 48 hours before meetings to give everyone ample time to read and comment. The first week is usually a bit chaotic, so don't stress out about deadlines for getting documents posted.

Schedule:

Organizational meeting

- 9/6 at 9:00am orientation and organizational meeting.

Sections meet weekly at times TBD

- Week 1 (9/9): draft personal statement, outline research statement. Request references.
- Week 2 (9/16): 1st draft research statement. Send your application materials to your referees.
- Week 3 (9/23): 2nd draft personal statement
- Week 4 (9/30): 2nd draft research statement. Remind your referees (letters are due 10/31).
- Week 5 (10/7): review whole package.

Submit your application by 5pm local time 10/16 (Life sciences) or 10/20 (Geo sciences).

Feel free to email me if you have questions.

Steve