

Applying to Graduate Fellowships & Scholarships

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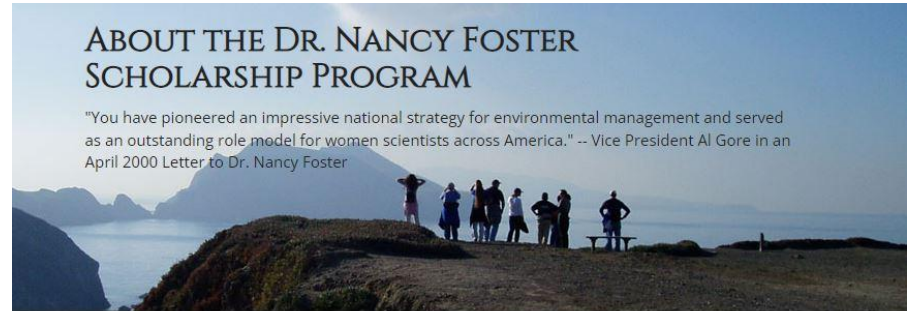
What is a fellowship?

- Funding that is typically awarded to pursue research in a specialized area
- Fellowships are often merit-based
 - Few have a need-based attachment
- “Service commitment”
 - Work on a particular project or job
 - Sometimes has a community outreach requirement
- Length is typically a 1-4 years

But how is this different from a scholarship?

What is a scholarship?

- Funding that is usually seen as ‘free money’
- Mission statement that defines the type of student or person they are looking to fund
- Money often is meant to go towards particular costs
 - Means they are usually a shorter length
- Merit or need-based funding



ABOUT THE DR. NANCY FOSTER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

"You have pioneered an impressive national strategy for environmental management and served as an outstanding role model for women scientists across America." -- Vice President Al Gore in an April 2000 Letter to Dr. Nancy Foster

History

[Dr. Nancy Foster's Legacy](#)

[About Dr. Nancy Foster](#)

[Honors](#)

[NOAA](#)

[NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries](#)

[Scholarship](#)

[Administration](#)

HISTORY

On June 27, 2000, Dr. Nancy Foster, the former Assistant Administrator for Oceanic Services and Coastal Zone Management at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and Director of the National Ocean Service (NOS), died at her home in Baltimore, Maryland after a year-long battle with cancer. Her early understanding of marine ecosystems and their conservation, and the need to consider the interdependent roles of organisms in marine ecosystems, set her apart as a pioneer and visionary.

This perspective laid the foundation for her 23-year tenure with NOAA, and brought a quality and strength to the agency unequalled in its history.

Throughout her career, Dr. Foster was well respected as a personal supporter of mentoring, a champion of diversity, and an advocate of fair and equal treatment of all people in the workplace. She personally touched the lives of hundreds of employees because she understood the strength



Former NOAA Administrator D. James Baker presents Presidential Rank Award to Dr. Foster.

So what's the difference?

*Essentially, a scholarship is meant to fund the individual for the purpose of study, often a specific cost, whereas a fellowship is meant to fund the individual for the purpose of study **or a research project***

Do I need a fellowship or scholarship to go to graduate school?

Nope!

(but it does help)

But how else do you get
funding?

As mentioned in the “How to Get into Graduate School” session you can work off of GAships!

- *Research Assistantship: working on a PI's grant*
- *Teaching Assistantship: working for a department by helping teach a course*

Fellowships and scholarships can allow for more freedom in research and open more opportunities!

- National fellowships can be brought to nearly any accredited institution
- Can design your own project
- Having funding leads to getting more funding!
- CV booster!

So then what's
the perks?

Common Graduate Fellowships & Scholarships

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

Recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported STEM disciplines

- Oldest graduate fellowship of its kind, comes with a great reputation!
- Provides students with:
 - \$37,000 annual stipend
 - \$12,000 cost of education allowance
 - ****Note you are a fellow for 5 years but *only have funding for 3 years***
- Application components:
 - 3 page *Personal, Relevant Background, and Future Goals* statement
 - 2 page *Graduate Research Plan*
 - 3 letters of recommendation



Deadline: October

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

Recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported STEM disciplines

GRFP has two main goals:

- Select applicants with the potential to **advance knowledge** in STEM (*Intellectual Merit*)
- Select applicants with potential to **benefit society** (*Broader Impacts*)

NSF is *not* funding the project they are **funding the individual!** Therefore they're not just looking for an excellent research proposal, they're looking for *future leaders* in STEM.



Deadline: October

Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program

Seeks to increase the number of women and minorities in marine sciences, particularly as they relate to the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

- Scholars are selected on academic excellence, LORs, research, career goals, ***and financial need***
- Provides students with:
 - \$30,000 annual stipend
 - \$12,000 education allowance
 - Up to \$10,000 of support for a 4-6 week program collaboration at a NOAA facility
- Application components:
 - 1 page Statement of Intent
 - 3 page Research Proposal
 - 2 Recommendation letters
 - Statement of Financial Need



Deadline: December

Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program

Seeks to increase the number of women and minorities in marine sciences, particularly as they relate to the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

The Nancy Foster Scholarship emphasizes three main things:

- Research related to the national marine sanctuaries
- Students demonstrate a *financial need*
- Outreach product!
 - Communicates your scientific research in a way the average person can understand

Similar to the GRFP, Nancy Foster is ***funding the individual!*** However, I highly recommend working on this application ***with a potential PI***, it will greatly strengthen your application.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation criteria and weighting of the criteria are as follows:

Academic Record and Statement of Career Goals (20%)

Academic Record and Statement of Career Goals of the Student

Statement of Intent - 10%

Sanctuary Ambassador - 5%

Outreach Letter - 5%

Quality of Project and Applicability to Program Priorities (30%)

Quality of project and applicability to program priorities. Research proposals will be evaluated for relevance to NOAA's mission, with particular focus on the mission of the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

Alignment with NOAA and National Marine Sanctuaries Priorities - 20%

Feasibility - 5%

Technical Understanding and Clarity of Proposal - 5%

Recommendations and/or Endorsements of Students (10%)

Evaluation of recommendations and/or endorsement letters.

Familiarity of Applicant - 5%

Strength of Support - 5%

Additional Relevant Experience (15%)

Additional relevant experience related to diversity of education: extracurricular activities; honors and awards, interpersonal, written, and oral communication skills. For the Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program, this includes relevant work experience. (Interpersonal and written skills will be evaluated from information in the Statement of Intent and Research Proposal.)

Experience - 7%

Communication Skills - 8%

Financial Need (25%)

Financial need of student

Estimated Financial Need - 4%

Financial Need Information Questions - 11%

Statement of Financial Need - 8%

Clarity of Financial Need Statement - 2%

Deadline: December

Fulbright U.S. Student Program

Expands perspectives through academic and professional advancement and cross-cultural dialogue

Program participants pursue graduate study, conduct research, or teach English abroad.

- Fulbright student grants are usually *school specific or country specific*
- Benefits vary based on the type of grant you wish to pursue

Application Components:

- 2 page Statement of Grant Purpose
- 1 page Personal Statement
- 3 Recommendation letters

Grant Period

University of Southampton Example

Fall Start

Grant Length: 10 months.

Master's programs in the UK may last up to one year (and in rare circumstances, 2 years). Unless otherwise stated, funding is provided for the first year of the degree – although the grant period is 10 months, tuition waivers cover the entire first year and student visas are not impacted by grant length.

Stipend amounts are set and do not change based on length of the degree.

Candidate Profile

The Commission is seeking applicants who demonstrate:

- Rigor in scholarly enquiry and academic or professional excellence;
- Strong reasons for wishing to pursue the proposed project in the UK and at a particular institution;
- A desire to gain a better understanding of the peoples and cultures of their host country;
- Commitment to the community through volunteer and extra-curricular activities;
- Flexibility and dynamism necessary for active involvement in the host country.

Grant Amount

- Full tuition waiver for the first year of study
- £15,607 living stipend
- \$1500 travel stipend

The living stipend is intended as a contribution towards general maintenance costs towards the first year in the UK.

Deadline: October (typically)

Fulbright U.S. Student Program

Expands perspectives through academic and professional advancement and cross-cultural dialogue

Fulbright emphasizes the holistic person, *not just* their academics.

- Does this person have a specific reason to pursue school/research in that country?
- Do they have the type of personality to assimilate?
- How will they bring the learnings/culture back to the US and vice versa?
- How will you get involved in the local community?

They are looking for people to be *good representatives* of the U.S. This means you want your letter writers to emphasize this as well!



Deadline: October (typically)

Additional National Fellowships

Below are some other national fellowships that are definitely worth looking into!

Ford Foundation Fellowship:

- Targeted towards underrepresented students interested in becoming professors
- Only one year left to apply!
- Pre-Doc → \$27,000 over 3 years



FORD
FOUNDATION

American Meteorological Society Fellowship:

- Students in atmospheric or related sciences
- Encourages underrepresented students to apply
- \$25,000 over 9 months, meant for 1st years



NASA FINESST:

- Projects must contribute to Science Mission Directorate's (SMD) science, technology, and exploration goals
- Solicitation will be out in November
- Up to \$50,000/year for 3 years

Deadlines: December - February

National funding is not the only option, make sure to check schools of interest for local fellowships!

Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation

Develop the next generation of natural resource management leaders in Hawai'i

The Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation has partnered with SOEST to develop a fellowship for Kama'āina students attending UH!

Provides students with:

- Tuition waiver for two years
- Annual stipend for two years
- Funds for research supplies, educational expenses, and professional development for the next two academic years

Application Components:

- 2 page essay
- 1 letter of recommendation from your advisor
- Transcripts



Deadline: January

Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation

Develop the next generation of natural resource management leaders in Hawai'i

The Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation is committed to helping Kama'āina interested in pursuing a career in natural resource management!

- They want to see a history of supporting Hawai'i's environment
- Dedication to remaining in Hawai'i throughout your career

As the founder Helga Glaesel-Hollenback said the foundation is searching *“to return the generosity of the islands”*



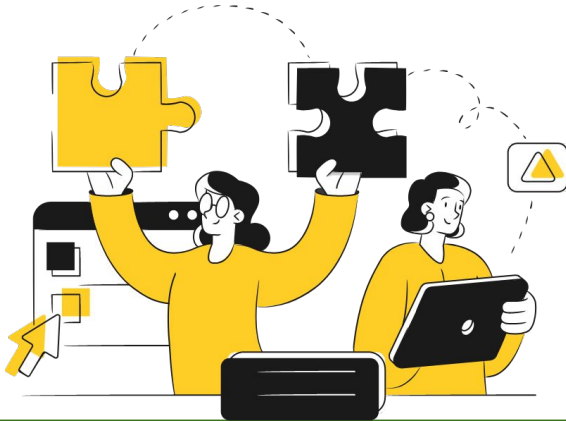
Deadline: January

So where should I start?

Find the right *fit and match*

Finding funding:

- Ask a mentor or professor of fellowships in your field
- Check a prospective school's website for internal funding!
- ***Check your emails***



Fit and match

How do my experience and future career goals align with the mission of this fellowship or scholarship?

- Look at your CV, past experiences, internships, etc.
- Highly recommend performing a Gap CV analysis!

Approaching the Application

What are the application materials?

1. How many letters of recommendation do I need?
2. What type of writing material are they requesting?
**Note: Personal Statements and Statements of Intent/Purpose are [different documents!](#)
3. Is there a research proposal? Do I need to reach out to potential advisors?



Approaching the Application

Time Management Tips:

1. Start *early*. This means giving yourself months, not weeks!
2. Set up “Shut Up and Write Groups” with a friend
3. Write in small bursts everyday or every other day
4. Set up deadlines with yourself and others!



Time management is arguably the most important part of developing a strong application!

Any Questions?

