

GRIFN FAQs**

General

- **What is GRIFN?**

USAID's Global Research & Innovation Fellowship Network (GRIFN) brings together existing fellowship programs. GRIFN offers a unique opportunity to place promising talent from institutions around the United States with hosts in developing countries to help tackle the biggest development challenges and engage in cutting-edge research and innovation.

- **When will GRIFN launch?**

Host opportunities will be posted in the catalog for Fellows to view by the end of September 2013. Fellow applications are due in December 2013, and Fellows can begin assignments as soon as March 2014.

- **How many countries will be eligible?**

Host opportunities will be available in seven countries - Brazil, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Senegal and South Africa. Additional countries will be added over time.

Fellow Eligibility Requirements

- **Will anyone be able to apply as a Fellow, or is it limited to those who are already funded by NSF?**

Individuals with an active award from the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP) are eligible to become GRIFN Fellows. Applicants must be United States citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the United States by the application deadline. For complete eligibility, visit: <http://www.nsfgrfp.org/>.

Beginning in August 2014, additional GRIFN Fellows will be added through NSF's Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program. NSF offers these grants to U.S. universities to support faculty members who organize research opportunities for cohorts of undergraduates. The program encourages international research opportunities for these faculty and their students on specific topics of research. Typically one faculty member will be accompanied by five to ten students in multiple overseas trips over a three-year grant period.

**Please note that GRIFN plans to expand in the future to include other points of entry for applicants beyond NSF. We encourage you to check in frequently for updates.*

- **Is there a requirement for age, educational experience, or area of study?**

For 2013/2014, only Masters and PhD candidates who are NSF GRFP recipients, or Undergraduates who are part of the REU program (see above) are eligible to apply. There is no age limit to this program, and the only restrictions on area of study fall within the NSF's criteria. Please visit this website for further details on eligibility: <http://www.nsfgrfp.org/>.

Host Opportunities

- **Will the opportunities identified by potential hosts need to be new, or can they be existing needs?**

GRIFN catalog opportunities do not need to be new; in fact we encourage organizations to identify needs within existing programs and projects. However, new opportunities are also welcome, as long as they meet the standards of research and utilize the Fellow's skills and capability in science, technology, and innovation. Each opportunity will be subject to a review process by USAID and NSF, and all hosting opportunities must adhere to the criteria listed on www.usaid.gov/GRIFN.

- **Can a host submit multiple opportunities?**

Yes. Hosts are allowed and encouraged to submit multiple opportunities. You can even submit a single opportunity that will require multiple Fellows. Please keep in mind that hosts must be able to provide some form of in-kind contribution to the Fellow, and must have the ability to manage and engage with each of the Fellows the host receives.

- **Is there a length requirement for each host opportunity?**

The host institution will determine the duration of the fellowship, which for Graduate Research Fellows must be between 2-12 months. Please note that these months do not have to be consecutive (for example, an opportunity might require a Fellow to come for three summers). It is important that the length of time be agreed upon between the host and Fellow during the matching period (September-December). The duration of fellowship may be negotiated, if appropriate.

- **What flexibility is there for the project to change based on shifting priorities of the host?**

It is acceptable for the project to change as long as both the Fellow and the host agree to any changes. USAID requests that any changes are reported to us at GRIFN@usaid.gov.

Application Process for Fellows

- **Will Fellows be able to apply to multiple opportunities, or just one?**

Potential GRIFN Fellows for 2013/2014 are encouraged to engage in conversations with multiple potential hosts, but they may only formally apply to one opportunity. All final applications must be submitted by the Fellow through the "Request Travel Allowance" task in their GRFP Fastlane module, submitted as one uploaded PDF.

- **Will the applications be accepted on a rolling basis, or will there be specific deadlines and "rounds" of applicants?**

For NSF Graduate Research Fellows, there will be one round of applications in 2013-2014. Opportunities will become available through a NSF solicitation in September and will remain open until the week of December 16, 2013.

- **What role does the host play in the recruitment and selection of the Fellows?**

The recruitment and selection process happens directly between the host and the GRIFN Fellow. It is the responsibility of the host to choose the Fellow that best fits their needs.

First, the host submits their opportunity online, which becomes visible to a large group of potential Fellows. The Fellows then select opportunities that appeal to him/her, and they contact the host directly to discuss the project description as well as the responsibilities and expectations on both sides. Once a good match is found, the host offers the Fellow a letter of invitation. Please do not issue multiple letters of invitation for a single opportunity. The Fellow uploads the letter as part of their GRIFN application, and NSF and USAID jointly approve the match.

Funding/Operations

- **What funding does USAID provide?**

USAID will provide each GRIFN Fellow with a travel allowance, in addition to their NSF research grant, to be used for GRIFN fellowship-related costs only. An estimated itemized budget must be submitted with the Fellow's application for final approval of funding. Costs can include items such as travel to host country, in-country housing and transportation, research supplies, etc. Funding cannot be used for the purchase of equipment.

- **Will there be any communication between the Fellows while in-country or after?**

USAID will host an annual conference in Washington, DC, to encourage fellowship, the exchange of experiences, lessons learned, and networking. The date for this conference has yet to be determined. Fellows should account for this cost in their budget estimates in the GRIFN application. Additional in-country and alumni opportunities will become available in order to foster a sustainable network of communication.

- **Are there any reporting requirements during or upon completion of the fellowship?**

USAID expects a semi-annual report from the Fellow outlining their experience and its impacts on their work and studies. This is in addition to NSF's reporting requirements. Fellows are encouraged to share presentations, stories, videos, etc within the GRIFN network, as appropriate.

** These FAQs address the initial roll out of GRIFN and are subject to change as the program expands. Please check back at www.usaid.gov/GRIFN for the most up-to-date information or email GRIFN@usaid.gov with questions.