

2017 Summer National Fellowship Application Lab

TAMUS LSAMP BTD & TAMUS AGEP

June 5, 2017

A Good National Fellowship Personal Statement

Facilitator: Dr. Katie Stober
Associate Director for Graduate Student Services,
Career Center, TAMU

Location & Time: Wisenbaker 236C at 5:30 PM

Dr. Katie Stober will discuss successful strategies for writing a personal statement.



June 12, 2017

Completing a National Fellowship Application Package, Part 1

Facilitator: Dr. Laurie Garton
Sr. Research Development Specialist, TEES

Location & Time: Wisenbaker 236C at 5:30 PM

Dr. Laurie Garton's presentation will focus on the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP). Dr. Garton will discuss successful strategies for completing the NSF GRFP. In addition, some students who were awarded the GRFP will share their experiences and tips on the GRFP process. This workshop will also be helpful to students applying to other National Fellowships.



July 13, 2017

Proposal Development for National Fellowship

Facilitator: Dr. Robert Chapkin
Distinguished Professor
Regents Professor & University Faculty Fellow

Location & Time: Wisenbaker 236C at 5:30 PM

Dr. Robert (Robb) Chapkin will focus on the topic of general proposal/grant-writing process. Because Dr. Chapkin has secured several NIH grants and may speak on NIH grants specifically.



July 24, 2017

Completing a National Fellowship Application Package, Part 2

Facilitator: Dr. Deborah Bell-Pedersen
Professor and Associate Department Head for Operations,
Department of Biology

Location & Time: Wisenbaker 236C at 5:30 PM

Dr. Bell-Pedersen will provide students with tips on elements that strengthen personal and/or research statements. She will also ask students about their statements. Dr. Bell-Pedersen will also discuss the importance of reaching out to others for personal and/or research statement reviews and revisions.



Why should you participate in the 2017 Summer National Fellowship Application Lab?

The AGEP program at Texas A&M University transformed my graduate training experience. In particular, the Summer 2015 National Fellowship Application Lab provided me with the structure to improve my fellowship writing processes. The design of the lab and the expertise of the speakers kept me on track to refine my fellowship applications so that I produced polished rather than rushed application packages. Spring 2016, for the first time in my academic career, I was in the position of having to decline a fellowship (the **American Association of University Women 2016 Dissertation Fellowship, \$20,000**) because I accepted the **Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, \$25,000**. I have also received the Cary N Smith '34 Memorial Scholarship, Academic Excellence Award (\$1,000) and the Unocal Graduate Scholarship in Geoscience (\$1,500) to support my last year of graduate training. The AGEP Summer Fellowship Application Lab is what made the difference for me!

-Yolanda McDonald, Ph.D. candidate, 5th year geography major

I found the National Fellowship Application Lab very useful for gathering general and specific information on completing a fellowship application—from writing a personal statement to securing letters of recommendation. The speakers gave explanations on what to expect and offered valuable advice based on their extensive experiences. The lab definitely provided the tools needed to make a fellowship application more competitive.

-Ivan Cortes, 2nd year Master's mechanical engineer major

I was already aware of the common and most popular fellowships offered to graduate students. However, Dr. Deborah Bell-Pedersen helped the students by showing us a guideline of how one should prepare for each application and how to navigate through the application process, e.g. the NSF-GRFP's Fastlane webpage. I encourage students to attend the sessions if they are interested in learning about fellowships or if they need guidance on where to begin.

-Mariela Vazquez, 2nd year Ph.D. chemistry major

I strongly encourage you to attend the SNFAL workshops! Many of our LSAMP Bridge to the Doctorate students who were awarded other fellowships highly recommend the SNFAL. The SNFAL will equip you with insider tips and strategies from successful proposals, past recipients, and program reviewers. You will gain what you need to produce high-caliber, competitive fellowship and grant application packages.

-Dr. Sam Merriweather, Associate Director TAMUS LSAMP

Timeline to help you stay on track with the fellowship application process

June 5-July 20, 2017

Work on personal statement draft.

Friday, July 14, 2017

Provide the AGEP program coordinator with your advisor contact information and the name and application packet requirements of national fellowships (1 for AGEP, 2 for BTM) to which you will be applying.

Monday, July 24, 2017

Bring your updated personal statement with you to the Completing a National Fellowship Application Package, Part 2 seminar.

Friday, August 25, 2017

Personal statements should be reviewed by the Writing Center and/or Career Center prior to this date. Please get your advisor or someone who has reviewed applications before to review your statements as well.

September – December 2017

Notify the AGEP coordinator with the date(s) that you had your application reviewed. There should **be at least two reviewers** for each application. Having more than two reviewers is highly encouraged.

Notify the AGEP program coordinator of any of your submitted national fellowship applications. This includes a confirmation of submission and the application materials (personal statement, research plan, etc.).



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation
LSAMP

