

## Workshop: Preparing Graduate Fellowships

Room: 165 Noyes Laboratory  
Lecture period: September 5, Tuesday, 5:30 – 6:50 PM

Instructor: So Hirata  
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Office hours: email only (the instructor on a sabbatical leave)

Required text: NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) solicitation:  
<https://www.nsfgrfp.org/>.

Audience: Incoming first-year and rising second-year graduate students enrolled in the graduate program of the Department of Chemistry. Some senior undergraduate students with research experience and high GPA can also enroll with the instructor's consent.

Objectives: The workshop aims at assisting first- and second-year graduate students in their effort to obtain external grants, awards, and fellowships. Using NSF GRFP as a template, the workshop provides the students with general information and guidance on all aspects of preparing grant/award/fellowship applications. Each student is required to prepare a complete and competitive application package in the style of NSF GRFP. Submission of the package to NSF is encouraged but not required.

Tentative schedule (*subject to change*):

Date	Topic
Sep 5	<b>Class</b> (5:30–6:50 PM, Noyes 165): course overview (objective, participants' tasks, schedule); panel of current NSF fellows.
Sep 8	<b>Graduate College NSF GRFP workshop</b> (2:00–4:00 PM, Illini Union, Rm 314): attendance strongly recommended.
Sep 12	<b>Outline due:</b> find and read the current NSF proposal solicitation; read successful past applications; identify research topics and conceive personal statement ideas; contact and obtain commitments from 3 letter writers; write and submit (electronically as email attachments) an outline listing the research topics, personal statement ideas, and name of your UIUC faculty mentor/letter writer.
Sep 19	<b>First draft due:</b> write the first draft and submit electronically to the instructor.
Sep 22	<b>Peer review due:</b> read the drafts of other students and submit anonymous reviews electronically to the instructor.
Sep 26	<b>Second draft due:</b> revise/rewrite the draft and submit electronically to the instructor and letter writers.
Oct 3	<b>Third draft due:</b> revise/rewrite the draft and submit electronically to the instructor and letter writers.
Oct 10	<b>Fourth draft due:</b> revise/rewrite the draft and submit electronically to the instructor and letter writers.
Oct 23	NSF GRFP (Life Sciences, Geosciences) application deadline.
Oct 24	NSF GRFP (Computer, Engineering, Materials) application deadline.
Oct 26	NSF GRFP (Psychology, Social Sci., STEM Education) application deadline.
Oct 27	NSF GRFP (Chemistry, Math, Physics, Astronomy) application deadline.
Nov 2	NSF GRFP recommendation letters deadline.