



Graduate Research Fellowships

The National Science Foundation (NSF) offered 2,064 students Graduate Research Fellowships for 2013, with 72 of those being math students (i.e., students in the mathematical sciences). Those offers were actually less than the number awarded for 2012. We, of course, think the number of fellowships awarded to math students should and can be higher.

We write to seek your help in encouraging graduate-school-bound seniors and first-year math graduate students to apply for NSF Graduate Research Fellowships. A higher percentage of applications submitted by students in mathematics will result in a higher number of NSF graduate fellowships allocated to our students.

We ask you to:

- Encourage your graduate-school-bound seniors to submit a fellowship application by holding a workshop or Math Club event where you supply all of the forms, instructions, and advice on writing a statement. Please see www.nsfgrfp.org for further information and forms. Applications in the mathematical sciences must be submitted no later than 8:00 pm Eastern Standard time on November 5, 2013.
- Strongly encourage your entering graduate students to submit a fellowship application. Make an NSF application-writing session part of new graduate student orientation or activities at the start of the semester.
- Educate your faculty about the benefit to each student of formulating a career plan and preparing a fellowship application.
- Give the AMS feedback about this effort and more ideas about how to accomplish this change.

Thank you for helping to increase the number of mathematics graduate students receiving NSF Graduate Research Fellowships.

Sincerely,

David A. Vogan, Jr.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
AMS President

Eric M. Friedlander
University of Southern California
AMS Past President
Chair, AMS Committee on Science Policy