

National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship Program

www.asee.org/ndseg

Deadline: January

Fields of Study

Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering; Biosciences; Chemical Engineering; Chemistry; Civil Engineering, Cognitive, Neural, and Behavioral Sciences; Computer Science; Electrical Engineering; Geosciences; Materials Science and Engineering; Mathematics; Mechanical Engineering; Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering; Oceanography; and Physics. The Department of Defense is also interested in supporting the education of future scientists and engineers in a number of interdisciplinary areas that overlap the disciplines listed above. Areas of particular interest include acoustics and nanosciences.

Description

The Department of Defense (DoD) is committed to increasing the number and quality of our nation's scientists and engineers. Toward that end, the DoD annually supports approximately 8,000 graduate students in fields important to national defense needs. The DoD supports graduate students in a number of ways. First and foremost is the support of thousands of graduate students who are members of research teams funded through DoD contracts and grants. Another mechanism for graduate student support is through portable fellowships, such as those awarded to U.S. citizens or nationals following a competition each year under the National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship Program. These portable fellowships allow the recipients to pursue their graduate studies at whichever U.S. institution they choose to attend. The DoD has awarded approximately 2,000 fellowships since the program's inception.

The Department of Defense (DoD) plans to award approximately 180 new three-year graduate fellowships each year, based upon available funding. The DoD will offer these fellowships to individuals who have demonstrated ability and special aptitude for advanced training in science and engineering. National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowships will be awarded to applicants who will pursue a doctoral degree in one of specialties listed above, and in interdisciplinary areas such as acoustics and nanosciences. Applicants who are interested in interdisciplinary fields should apply under the discipline that most closely matches the course of study they are proposing to pursue in graduate school.

New fellowships will be for periods of three years. NDSEG Fellows do not incur any military or other service obligation. The DoD will pay the fellow's full tuition and required fees (not to include room and board). In addition, fellows receive a stipend for 12-month tenures that exceeds \$30,000.

Criteria for Selection

The NDSEG Fellowship Program is open only to applicants who are citizens or nationals of the United States. The term “nationals” refers to native residents of a possession of the United States such as American Samoa. It does not refer to a citizen of another country who has applied for U.S. citizenship. Persons who hold permanent resident status are not eligible. Proof of citizenship will be required upon formal offer.

Applications are encouraged from women, persons with disabilities, and members of ethnic and racial minority groups (including African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, and Hispanic or Latino persons) that historically have been underrepresented in science and engineering fields listed in the Introduction of this website.

NDSEG Fellowships are intended for students at or near the beginning of their graduate studies in science or engineering. Applicants must have received or be on track to receive their bachelor’s degrees by the following fall. Fellows selected in the spring must begin their fellowship tenure in following fall.

ASEE and the DoD use guidelines to determine the eligibility of an applicant. These guidelines relate to the academic status of applicants and are designed to ensure that students at or near the beginning of their graduate studies receive fellowships. Applicants must meet one of the following conditions for eligibility:

- be enrolled in their final year of undergraduate studies
- have completed no more than the equivalent of one academic year of full-time graduate study as a part-time or full-time student

Exceptional circumstances may qualify other applicants as being at the early stages of their graduate studies, therefore making the applicant eligible for consideration. For example, graduate students who have changed fields and are essentially starting over in a new field of study may qualify for the fellowship. In these special cases, applicants are required to describe these exceptional circumstances in the Academic Status Explanation section located in Part 2 of the application. These explanations will be reviewed and eligibility determined on a case by case basis.

Applicants who have received a medical degree or a Ph.D. in science or engineering are not eligible for the NDSEG Fellowship.

NDSEG Fellowships will be awarded on the basis of academic ability in the areas of interest to the DoD. The evaluation of applicants is based on review of their academic records, personal statements, recommendations, and Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. Each application is evaluated by a panel having expertise in the science or engineering discipline of the applicant’s proposed advanced degree program. Notification takes place in March or April.

Application Procedure

A complete NDSEG Fellowship application is available on the web or by mail, and must be submitted in order to qualify for consideration. A complete fellowship application consists of the following elements:

- (1) Application Forms, parts 1 and 2;
- (2) Official transcripts;
- (3) Three Reference Evaluation Forms and;
- (4) Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores (general test only).

Complete applications will be reviewed by a separate panel of experts in the discipline selected by the applicant. Complete fellowship applications must be submitted by the deadline in *early* January.

All applicants are encouraged to submit their application online.

<https://www.asee.org/ndseg/online/online.cfm>