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# BCH 595.01: Special Topics - STEM Graduate Research Fellowships

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## **BCH 595: STEM Graduate Research Fellowships CRN 75541**

### **1 credit as CR/NCR, R4; Fall 2014 Syllabus**

**Instructor: Michele McGuirl**

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**243-4404, CHCB 204**

This course is intended to encourage and assist graduate students in applying for extramural, individual research fellowships in the sciences, from federal or private sources. The course will guide you in preparing a competitive application and provide feedback on elements such as personal statements, CVs, and research descriptions.

The class will meet once a week at a time to be arranged. The last four weeks (after fellowships have been submitted) will be focused on learning more about non-academic careers for MS and PhD level scientists. Students will be expected to attend every week, provide peer critiques, and complete writing assignments on time. Students must submit a fellowship application to receive credit.

**For Fall 2014, preference will be given to students who wish to apply to the NSF for either a Graduate Research Fellowship ([GRFP](#)), a summer 2105 travel award from the East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes program ([EAPSI](#)), or other [NSF funding opportunities](#) for graduate students with fall deadlines.**

**For Fall 2014, preference will be given to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year graduate students enrolled in a MS or PhD graduate program of the College of Humanities and Sciences (Anthropology, Biochemistry and Biophysics, Biological Sciences (CMMB, OBE, or SE), Chemistry and Biochemistry, Computer Science, Environmental Studies, Geography, Geosciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physics and Psychology) or in an Individual Studies program (MIS or IIP) in a related field. Senior Undergraduates in these disciplines who have research experience and exceptional academic records may also enroll.**

**Students who wish to apply for NIH Predoctoral Fellowships ([F31](#)) should enroll in the Spring Semester.** Eligibility criteria vary for each NIH Institute/Center ([Institute Specifics](#)) but in general students must be candidates for the PhD degree and have identified a dissertation research project and sponsor(s). Please contact the instructor for guidance.

Note: Only US citizens and permanent residents are eligible for federally funded fellowships like the NSF or the NIH. However, students who are not eligible for federal fellowships are encouraged to take the course after identifying a private fellowship source, with the help of the instructor. Other eligibility requirements vary by fellowship. Students from underrepresented groups in science are encouraged to apply.

**For the Graduate Research Fellowship ([GRFP](#)),** students should be in their first or second year of graduate school (Senior undergraduates are also eligible) and should be doing research in a field of interest to the NSF. Except for a few programs (e.g. Biomedical Engineering) and special initiatives, the NSF does not support biomedical research. Please contact the instructor for guidance.

Students who wish to apply for other fellowships (federal or private) should enroll in the semester that best fits with the deadlines for those fellowships. Please contact the instructor for guidance.

## Tentative Schedule of Topics - based on Friday class schedule

Month	Date	Day	Topic
<b>August</b>	29	F	Organizational Meeting
<b>September</b>	5	F	About the NSF (Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts) and the GRFP
	12	F	Reviewing Successful GRFP Applications
	19	F	Personal, Relevant Background and Future Goals Statement
	26	F	Graduate Research Plan Statement
<b>October</b>	3	F	Letters of Reference and Identifying Alternate Fellowships
	10	F	Peer Review of Application Material – Strengths and Weaknesses
	17	F	Peer Review of Revised Application Material
	24	F	Polishing the Applications (due date 10/30)
	31	F	Polishing the Applications (due date 11/6)
<b>November</b>	7	F	Celebrating Hard Work, Developing a Thick Skin and a Backup Plan
	14	F	Non-Academic Careers: Beyond the Ivory Tower
	21	F	Resources for the Next Step Post PhD Options
	28	F	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday, no class</b>
<b>December</b>	5	F	Resources for Non-Academic Career Paths