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NSF Target Dates vs. Deadlines

If you have been mystified by the concept of target dates as opposed to deadlines here’s a reminder:

Target dates: If your proposal is received by a target date it will be reviewed by the next scheduled panel or committee. If it is received after the target date it may not make the committee meeting, but it will not be thrown in the trash. Your proposal will be included in the next scheduled review meeting.

Deadline dates: Deadlines must be met in order for your proposal to be accepted. To put it bluntly, if you submit after a deadline date your proposal will be placed in the trash. NSF will not accept it. Of course, that does not mean you cannot resubmit it in the next round, but that is often a year away.

Funding opportunities without deadlines, such as the RUI and ROA supplement, are best submitted a short time before or no later than the published target date associated with the division it is being submitted to. This will maximize the opportunity for a quick review. If in doubt as to when to submit a proposal that does not have a deadline it is best to send the program officer an e-mail to request clarification.

Target Dates for the NSF Biology divisions are as follows:

January 9 and July 9
Biological Infrastructure (DBI)
Environmental Biology (DEB)
Emerging Frontiers (EF)

January 12 and July 12
Integrative Organismal Biology (IOB)
Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB)
**Upcoming Grant Opportunities**

**Contact:** Mark Poth  
National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program  
c/o Proposal Services Unit  
CSREES/USDA, STOP 2245  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250-2245  
Phone: (202)401-5022 or -5244  
Fax: (202)401-6488 or -2653  
E-mail: nricgp@csrees.usda.gov or mpoth@csrees.usda.gov  

**DEADLINE:** Deadlines TBA late September – see website in late Sept. for specific deadlines

**PURPOSE:** to support research, extension, and education grants that address key problems of national, regional, and multistate importance in sustaining all components of agriculture (farming, ranching, forestry including urban and agroforestry, aquaculture, rural communities, human nutrition, processing, etc.).

In FY 2006, all 32 NRI programs are organized within the following 5 Program Clusters: Agricultural Biosecurity; Agricultural Genomics; Agricultural Production and Value-Added Processing; Agroecosystems; and Nutrition, Obesity, Food Safety and Quality. In addition, each Program Description contains long-term (10 year) goals and FY 2006 priorities for research projects and/or integrated research, education, and extension projects. Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the entire Program Description section for additional information relative to their programs of interest. Please note that the NRI has instituted funding limit guidelines for all types of applications. Applicants should consult individual programs for the guidelines that apply to each program.

**UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**PROGRAM PRIORITIES:** The FY 2006 NRI RFA invites applications for research grants and integrated research, extension, and education grants. Integrated means to bring together the three components of the agricultural knowledge system (research, education, and extension) around a problem or activity. In FY 2006, the NRI is seeking to support projects that bring together at least two of these components. Eligibility and requirements for matching funds and types of projects differ by application type; thus, applicants are strongly encouraged to read the entire RFA and contact the appropriate National Program Leader with any questions.

**PROGRAM CLUSTERS:**

1. Agricultural Genomics Program Cluster  
   52.1 Plant Genomics

2. Agricultural Biosecurity Program Cluster  
   Plant Biosecurity Programs:  
   20.2 Plant Biosecurity  
   51.2 Organismal and Population Biology of Arthropods and Nematodes  
   51.8 Biology of Plant Microbe-Associations

3. Agricultural Production and Value-Added Processing Program Cluster  
   Plant Production Programs:  
   22.1 Agricultural Plants and Environmental Adaptation  
   51.8 Biology of Plant-Microbe Associations - refer to program description in Agricultural Biosecurity program cluster  
   52.2 Genetic Processes and Mechanisms of Agricultural Plants  
   53.0 Developmental Processes of Agricultural Plants
54.3 Agricultural Plant Biochemistry
4. Nutrition, Obesity, Food Safety and Quality Program Cluster
   Food Safety Programs:
   32.0 Food Safety
   32.1 Epidemiological Approaches for Food Safety
5. Agroecosystems Program Cluster
   Natural Resources Programs:
   25.0 Soil Processes
   26.0 Water and Watersheds
   28.0 Air Quality
   Systems Programs:
   23.1 Managed Ecosystems
   51.9 Biology of Weedy and Invasive Species in Agroecosystems
   Human Dimensions Programs:
   62.0 Rural Development
   66.0 Agricultural Prosperity of Small and Medium-Sized Farms

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_Agriculture (Department of)_
_Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES)_
_National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Pgm (NRICGP) FY06_
_Agricultural Plants and Environmental Adaptation_

Gail McLean
National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program
c/o Proposal Services Unit
CSREES/USDA
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., 2201
Washington, DC 20250-2201
Phone: (202)401-6060 or -5244  Fax: (202)401-6488 or -2653
E-mail: gmclean@csrees.usda.gov or nricgp@csrees.usda.gov or mpoth@csrees.usda.gov
Web Site: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/fundview.cfm?fonum=1112
DEADLINES ANNOUNCED: 10/01/2006

PURPOSE: to support research, extension, and education grants that address key problems of national, regional, and multistate importance in sustaining all components of agriculture (farming, ranching, forestry including urban and agroforestry, aquaculture, rural communities, human nutrition, processing, etc.). This program supports fundamental plant research to optimize biological yield and quality while improving tolerance to environmental stress in agriculturally important plants. This research will enable both the improvement of plant productivity during environmental stress and the development of agriculturally important plants tolerant of various environmental conditions and stresses. It also will build on genomics and genetics to devise new or improved strategies for decreasing the impact of environmental stress on agricultural and forest productivity and sustainability. This program also supports integrated activities to advance training in plant breeding and germplasm enhancement. FY 2006 Priorities for Research: 1) Water stress (including drought, salt, and flooding stress); 2) Global change stress (including increased carbon dioxide, ozone); and 3) Temperature stress.

SUPPORT PROVIDED: Grants for this program will not exceed $400,000 (including indirect costs) for research projects and $600,000 for integrated project periods of 2-4 years. The total amount of support available for this program will be approximately $3.5 million with up to $700,000 for integrated projects. For research projects, unless otherwise indicated, cost sharing or matching is not required for NRI awards.
**Agriculture (Department of)**

**Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program**

**Southern Region**

**Sustainable Community Innovation Grants: Level 1 and Level 2 Projects**

John C. Mayne, Ph.D.
Assistant Director
Stuckey Building, Room 203
1109 Experiment Street
Griffin, GA  30223-1797
Phone: (770)412-4787  Fax: (770)412-4789
E-mail: jmayne@griffin.uga.edu or ppatton@griffin.uga.edu

DEADLINES ANNOUNCED:  11/28/2006

GENERAL PURPOSE: to establish explicit linkages between sustainable agriculture and community development and improve understanding of the mutual benefits of such linkages. The Sustainable Community Innovation Grants Program funds projects that pursue local strategies to link sound farm and non-farm economic development with agricultural and natural resource management. Applications are encouraged that will increase knowledge, build capacity, and make connections among on- and off-farm sustainable agriculture activities, economic and community development efforts, civic engagement, nutrition and health, and local government policy. Sustainable Community Innovation Grants aim to blend sustainable agriculture practices with new community development strategies to increase our ability to build resilient farms, businesses, families and communities in the South. These grants will also support research into ways that link farms, businesses, families, institutions and communities in collaborative problem solving and the application of innovative new tools to aid sustainable community development. They will further fund research into innovative strategies that utilize sustainable agriculture concepts and practices to create and apply new knowledge that supports and promotes community development.

APPLICANTS: Any individuals, non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, governmental organizations and/or educational organizations may apply for a Level 1 Sustainable Community Innovation Grant. Applicants from all Southern states are eligible to apply. The Southern region consists of: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

**Level 1 Sustainable Community Innovation Grants** projects can involve activities or endeavors that meet as many of the following elements as possible: (1) Links sound farm and nonfarm economic development with agricultural and natural resource management; (2) Increases knowledge, builds capacity, and strengthens connections among on- and off-farm sustainable agriculture activities, economic and community development efforts, value-added activities, civic engagement, and local government policy; (3) Addresses entrepreneurial activities that seek to build on the nonagricultural assets of rural communities in ways that that bring important and clear benefits to the agricultural sector.

SUPPORT PROVIDED: Level 1 projects may be funded for up to two years for a project maximum of $10,000.

**Level 2 projects** must focus most of their activities on outcomes that promote value-added sustainable agriculture, and must offer strong evidence that tangible economic benefits will likely accrue to the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors of the community as a result of these projects (such as the creation or retention of agriculture-related jobs or businesses in the target communities). Furthermore, they should have a plan to document those impacts and to ensure that they last beyond the lifetime of the projects.
grant funding. Level 2 projects could include: (1) Efforts to diversify the rural agricultural sector and local economy through the establishment of value added entrepreneurial activities--both on-farm and off-farm; (2) Development of community-supported funding strategies that provide avenues for securing the financial capital necessary to launch or expand value-added activities; (3) Building of a network of value-added activities that facilitate communication, mentoring, and joint use of the infrastructure services needed to help sustain their activities over the long-term.

SUPPORT PROVIDED: Level 2 projects have a maximum funding level of $50,000 and can extend to up to three years in duration.

**American Seed Research Foundation**

**Research Grants**

**Contact:** 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 650
Alexandria, VA 22314-2875
**Phone:** (703)837-8140
**Web Site:** [http://www.amseed.com/asrf/index.html](http://www.amseed.com/asrf/index.html)
**E-forms:** [http://www.amseed.com/asrf/asrfappfm.html](http://www.amseed.com/asrf/asrfappfm.html)
**DEADLINE:** None

The primary objective of ASRF is to encourage research which explores the basic principles underlying why seeds behave as they do. Awards are made every three years. The primary objective of the American Seed Research Foundation (ASRF) is to encourage research that explores the basic principles underlying why seeds behave as they do. ASRF supports both basic and applied research that will contribute to the basic knowledge of seeds.

**FUNDING:** Three to five projects were to be selected for the three-year period beginning in September 2001. Grants were limited to $10,000 per year over the three-year life of the project.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Scientists with plans to conduct seed research are invited to apply. To maximize the use of ASRF grants, cooperating institutions agree to furnish buildings, land, greenhouse space, supervision, etc., in support of the projects, insofar as facilities of the university will permit; and also agree that no indirect cost or overhead is deducted from these grants, and that all funding is used to defray direct costs of the research projects.

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**Earthwatch Institute**

**Research Program**

**Field-based Research Grants**

**Contact:** Earthwatch International
3 Clock Tower Place, Suite 100
Box 75
Maynard, MA 01754
**Phone:** (978)461-0081 or (800)776-0188  Fax: (978)461-2332
**Web Site:** [http://www.earthwatch.org/research/proposals.html](http://www.earthwatch.org/research/proposals.html)
**DEADLINE:** None
NOTE: Earthwatch is not accepting additional preliminary proposals for the 2007 season. Preliminary proposals for the 2008 field season (October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008) are now being accepted.

Earthwatch Institute is an international nonprofit organization that supports scholarly field research worldwide in the biological, physical, social, and cultural sciences. The Research Program at Earthwatch is responsible for soliciting, reviewing, and recommending research proposals for Earthwatch support. Earthwatch's mission is to provide scientists with the funding and labor they need in the form of motivated, dedicated, paying volunteers. This unique funding model enables us to support research in a variety of disciplines, dependent only on a researcher's need for volunteers and Earthwatch's ability to find them. One of our goals is to support diverse research interests and a diverse scientific community. In particular, Earthwatch is interested in supporting typically underrepresented groups, such as early career scientists, women in science, and developing country nationals.

**FUNDING:** Earthwatch awards research grants on a per capita basis; the total grant amount is determined by multiplying the per capita grant by the number of Earthwatch volunteers participating on a project. Per capita grants average $800, and the average project grant range is between $16,000 and $48,000 for one full season. A project usually involves 20 to 60 total volunteers per field season, with 5 to 12 volunteers each on 4 to 5 teams. Each team typically spends 8 to 15 days in the field.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Earthwatch supports doctoral and postdoctoral researchers, or researchers with equivalent scholarship or commensurate life experience. The Research Program welcomes proposals from advanced scholars and professionals of any nationality, covering any geographic region.

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**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**  
**Office of Research and Development**  
**National Center for Environmental Research (NCER)**  
**Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Program**  
**STAR Fellowships for Graduate Environmental Study**

Stephanie Willett  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460  
Phone: (202)343-9737 or 1-800-490-9194 (toll free)  
E-mail: willett.stephanie@epa.gov  
Web Site: [http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/](http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/)  
**DEADLINES ANNOUNCED:** November 28, 2006

PURPOSE: to encourage promising students to obtain advanced degrees and pursue careers in an environmental field. An applicant's planned course of study MUST focus on one or more issues of environmental significance: environmental engineering (limited to pollution prevention; includes sustainability); atmospheric sciences; environmental chemistry and environmental materials science; geology (includes hydrogeology); economics (includes market incentives and health and ecosystem valuation); geography; environmental decision-making research urban/regional planning; biochemistry, molecular biology, cell biology, developmental biology, and genetics (includes genomics, proteomics, and bioinformatics); microbiology; public health sciences (includes environmental epidemiology, exposure assessment, biostatistics, and health risk assessment); toxicology (includes pharmacokinetics and toxicodynamic modeling); health physics aquatic systems ecology--freshwater systems only; oceanography and coastal processes--includes ecosystems ranging from estuarine to marine; terrestrial systems ecology--plants and soils only (limited to soils, plants and the microorganisms that inhabit them) and; terrestrial systems ecology--includes animals (the animal research need not be the primary focus of the project).
SUPPORT PROVIDED: EPA anticipates that a total of approximately $9.8 million will be awarded under this announcement, depending on the availability of funds. The EPA anticipates funding approximately 100 fellowships under this RFA. The projected award per fellowship is $37,000 per year total costs, for up to 3 years. Master's-level students may receive support for a maximum of two years. Doctoral students may be supported for a maximum of three years, usable over a period of four years. The fellowship provides up to $37,000 per year of support per fellowship.

**Field Museum of Natural History**

*Visiting Scholarships*

Chair, Scholarship Committee  
Office of Academic Affairs  
1400 South Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, IL  60605-2496  
Phone: (312)665-7627  Fax: (312)665-7641  
E-mail: ezeiger@fieldmuseum.org  
Web Site: [http://www.fieldmuseum.org/research_collections/scholarships/default.htm](http://www.fieldmuseum.org/research_collections/scholarships/default.htm)  
DEADLINES ANNOUNCED:  11/01/2006  05/01/2007

PURPOSE: to provide research opportunities for scientists who wish to use the research collections at the Field Museum. Preference is given to projects related to the research interests of a staff member of the Field Museum. Specific information on individual departmental research areas may be obtained by writing to the chair of one of the four scientific departments: Anthropology, Botany, Geology, or Zoology. Both professionals and graduate students can be funded for periods of a few days to several weeks from the Thomas J. Dee and the Karl P. Schmidt funds. Extended-term visits by distinguished national and international scientists can be funded for periods of several weeks up to one year through the Robert O. Bass Visiting Scientist Fund.

SUPPORT PROVIDED: Young professionals and graduate students can be funded for periods of a few days to several weeks. Owing to the limited availability of these funds, stipends are typically less than $1000 per scholar. Extended-term visits by distinguished national and international scientists can be funded for periods of several weeks up to one year. These stipends are negotiable.

**Herb Society of America**

*Research Grant Program*

The Herb Society of America, Inc.  
RESEARCH GRANT  
9019 Kirtland Chardon Rd.  
Kirtland, OH 44094  
Phone: (440)256-0514  Fax: (440)256-0541  
E-mail: herbs@herbsociety.org  
Web Site: [http://www.herbsociety.org/](http://www.herbsociety.org/)  
DEADLINE: None

PURPOSE: to support small, self-contained research projects that can be carried out in a short period of time. The grant is for a one-year period of work. The maximum amount available is $5,000. HSA offers annual research grants to students, professionals, and individuals engaged in research on the horticultural, scientific, and/or social applications or use of herbs throughout history.
**Life Sciences Research Foundation**

**Postdoctoral Fellowship Program**

Susan DiRenzo, Assistant Director  
Lewis Thomas Laboratory  
Princeton University  
Washington Road  
Princeton, NJ 08544  
Phone: (609)258-3551  
E-mail: sdirenzo@molbio.princeton.edu  
Web Site: [http://www.LSRF.org/](http://www.LSRF.org/)  
DEADLINE: 10/01/2006

PURPOSE: to support postdoctoral fellowships in the life sciences. LSRF awards fellowships across the spectrum of the life sciences: biochemistry; cell, developmental, molecular, plant, structural, organismic population, and evolutionary biology; endocrinology; immunology; microbiology; neurobiology; physiology; and virology. Three-year fellowships will be awarded on a competitive basis to graduates of medical and graduate schools in the biological sciences holding M.D., Ph.D., D.V.M., or D.D.S. degrees. Awards are based solely on the quality of the individual applicant's previous accomplishments and on the merit of the proposal for postdoctoral research.

FUNDING: The fellowship is $51,000 per year and is meant to be a minigrant. LSRF keeps $1,000 for administrative expenses and passes the rest to the fellow. The salary scale begins at $40,000 for a first-year postdoctoral, $42,500 for a second year, and $45,000 thereafter. Expenditure of the remainder will be controlled by the fellow, not the advisor. It can be used for fringe benefits, travel to the host institution, travel to visit the sponsor and to the LSRF annual meeting. However, its main purpose is to support the fellow's research expenses. The LSRF does not award an institutional allowance for overhead.

LSRF WILL BE OPEN FOR REGISTRATION AND NEW APPLICATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2006. Deadline for final uploading is October 1, 2006. Reference letters will have a deadline of November 1, 2006. The application will be uploaded online as PDF files. Reference letters will also be submitted online. Email messages will be sent to your supervisor and references by LSRF instructing them how to attach files to your application.

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**Mellon (Andrew W.) Foundation**

**Junior Faculty Research Grants**

William Robertson IV, Program Officer  
140 East 62nd Street  
New York, NY 10021  
Phone: (212)838-8400  
E-mail: wr@mellon.org or dnt@mellon.org  
Web Site: [http://www.mellon.org/conservation.html](http://www.mellon.org/conservation.html)  
DEADLINE: None

PURPOSE: Junior Faculty Research grants are awarded to new faculty as they begin their first tenure-track positions. The idea is to provide intellectual venture capital to promising researchers at the critical and formative stage when they begin their independent research careers. The grants are very competitive. Amounts have ranged between approximately $100,000 and $300,000. This program is devoted to basic research on how natural ecosystems work. The proposed research must be in the field of plant ecosystem ecology—here we include soils ecology, and plant and ecosystem processes. The project
or projects must be field research, and not to support analysis, modeling, correlations or surveys using extant data sets. Initial inquiry should be by e-mail and should include a brief description of the research idea or ideas and an estimate of costs.

**Mott (Charles Stewart) Foundation**  
**Conservation of Freshwater Ecosystems in North America**

Office of Proposal Entry  
C.S. Mott Foundation Mott Foundation  
Building 503 S. Saginaw St., Suite 1200  
Flint, MI 48502-1851 U.S.A.  
Phone: (810)238-5651  
Fax: (810)766-1753  
E-mail: info@mott.org  
**DEADLINE:** Applications are accepted year-round, but those received between September 1 and December 31 will be considered only for the following calendar year.

PURPOSE: We focus our grantmaking on the Great Lakes basin and portions of the Southeastern U.S. because of the uniqueness and richness of these freshwater ecosystems. The Great Lakes are the world's largest freshwater ecosystem, containing 20 percent of the global supply of fresh water. Freshwater ecosystems within the Southeast have among the highest levels of species diversity in the world. In both the Great Lakes and the Southeast, healthy freshwater ecosystems are vital to local economies, community character and regional culture. Conserving and restoring these ecosystems protects globally significant biological diversity while contributing to human well-being and quality of life.

FUNDING: The Mott Foundation makes grants in the U.S. and, on a limited geographic basis, internationally. Grants outside the U.S. are made only in the Civil Society and Environment programs. All prospective applicants should review the mission, program areas, geographic range, and available funding for the Foundation's programs before making initial contact. Because available funding is limited, letters of inquiry are strongly preferred for unsolicited ideas or projects. Such letters should include a brief description of the project, the funding needed and the time period. Both general-purpose and project-specific requests are considered. In addition, both single- and multi-year proposals are acceptable. Our median grant size is in the $100,000 range. The majority of our grants are between $15,000 and $250,000 annually.

**National Geographic Society**  
**Grants for Research and Exploration**

Committee for Research and Exploration  
1145 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20090-8249  
Phone: (800)647-5463  
E-mail: cre@ngs.com  
**DEADLINE:** None

PURPOSE: The National Geographic Society awards grants for scientific field research and exploration through its Committee for Research and Exploration. All proposed projects must have both a
geographical dimension and relevance to other scientific fields and be of broad scientific interest. Applications are generally limited to the following disciplines: anthropology, archaeology, astronomy, biology, botany, geography, geology, oceanography, paleontology, and zoology. In addition, the Committee is currently emphasizing multidisciplinary projects that address environmental issues.

FUNDING: While grant amounts vary greatly, most range from U.S. $15,000 to $20,000. There is no set quantity of grants awarded, but budget constraints keep the number to approximately 250 per year.

**National Science Foundation (NSF)**

**Directorate for Biological Sciences**

**Division of Biological Infrastructure**

**Undergraduate Research and Mentoring in the Biological Sciences (URM)**

URM Program Director
Division of Biological Infrastructure
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 615 N
Arlington, VA 22230
Phone: (703)292-8470 Fax: (703)292-9063
E-mail: biourm@nsf.gov

DEADLINES: October 30, 2006 Prelim. Proposal March 6, 2007 Full Proposal

PURPOSE: to increase the number and diversity of individuals pursuing graduate studies in all areas of biological research supported by the NSF Directorate for Biological Sciences. Support will be provided to academic institutions to establish innovative programs to engage undergraduates in a year-round research and mentoring activity. Particular emphasis will be placed on broadening participation of members of groups historically underrepresented in science and engineering: African Americans, Alaska Natives, American Indians, Hispanic Americans, Native Pacific Islanders, and persons with disabilities.

SUPPORT PROVIDED: Approximately $4 million will be available for this solicitation for new awards in FY 2007, subject to the availability of funds. Requests may be submitted for funding amounts up to a total of $1 million for up to five years.

**National Science Foundation (NSF)**

**Office of the Director**

**Office of International Science and Engineering (INT)**

**International Research Fellowship Program (IRFP)**

Susan L. Parris, Program Manager
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 935 N
Arlington, VA 22230
Phone: (703)292-8711 Fax: (703)292-9067
E-mail: sparris@nsf.gov

DEADLINES ANNOUNCED: 10/03/2006

PURPOSE: to introduce scientists and engineers in the early stages of their careers to international collaborative research opportunities, thereby furthering their research capacity and global perspective and forging long-term relationships with scientists, technologists and engineers abroad. Applications with a biomedical focus are returned without review. Appropriate organizations include institutions of higher education, industrial research institutions/laboratories, government research institutes/laboratories/centers, nonprofit research organizations, and foreign centers of excellence. Applicants should check the
IRFP Funding Opportunity page on the OISE web site for possible country-specific opportunities.

SUPPORT PROVIDED: Approximately 30-35 fellowships will be offered each year to U.S. investigators for research abroad. Awards in recent years have ranged in size from $57,000 to $200,000, depending on location of host site, cost of research project, duration, and number of dependents. Total program support will be approximately $3.5 million in each fiscal year, contingent upon the quality of applications and availability of funds. Fellowships will provide support for periods of from nine to 24 months. Awardees are encouraged to begin the fellowship within 12 months of notification of an award.

National Science Foundation (NSF)
Directorate for Biological Sciences
Division of Emerging Frontiers
United States Department of Agriculture
Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service
Microbial Observatories (MO) and Microbial Interactions and Processes (MIP)

Matthew Kane, Program Director
Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 655 S
Arlington, VA 22230
Phone: (703)292-7186  Fax: (703)292-9061
E-mail: mkane@nsf.gov
DEADLINES ANNOUNCED: 10/09/2006

PURPOSE: (1) discovery of large numbers of as yet undescribed microorganisms and microbial consortia from diverse habitats; and (2) characterization of novel biochemical, metabolic, physiological, genomic and other properties and processes of newly described or poorly understood microbes and microbial communities.

SUPPORT PROVIDED: NSF and/or the USDA/CSREES will support relevant MO projects, whereas MIP projects will only be eligible for support by NSF. The NSF expects to fund approximately 10 awards in each category per year. For MO projects, NSF awards are expected to be for five years (with the possibility of a one-year no-cost extension), and total award size (all years, whether single institution or collaborative) is expected to range between $500,000 and $2,000,000. For MIP projects, awards are expected to be for up to four years, and total award size is expected to range up to $500,000.

National Science Foundation (NSF)
Directorate for Biological Sciences
Division of Environmental Biology
Division of Integrative Organismal Biology (IOB)

Program Director, Division of Environmental Biology (DEB)
Program Director, Division of Integrative Organismal Biology (IOB)
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230
Phone: (703)292-8480 (DEB) or (703)292-8423 (IOB)
E-mail: ddig-deb@nsf.gov or ddig-iob@nsf.gov
DEADLINES ANNOUNCED: 11/17/2006

PURPOSE: to provide partial support of doctoral dissertation research in order to improve the overall quality of the research, to allow doctoral candidates to conduct research in specialized facilities or field settings away from the home campus, and to provide opportunities for greater diversity in collecting and creativity in analyzing data than would otherwise be possible using only locally available resources. Proposals whose focus falls within the scope of any cluster in the Division of Environmental Biology (DEB) or in the scientific area of animal behavior supported by the Behavioral Systems Cluster in the Division of Integrative Organismal Biology (IOB) are eligible.

SUPPORT PROVIDED: Approximately $1.3 million is available annually. NSF estimates making 120 awards. Grants are typically awarded for periods up to 24 months and for amounts up to $12,000. These awards are intended to provide supplemental funds for items not normally available from the student's university or other sources.

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National Science Foundation (NSF)
Directorate for Education and Human Resources
Division of Elementary, Secondary, and Informal Education
Informal Science Education (ISE) Program

Informal Science Education (ISE) Program
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 885 S
Arlington, VA 22230
Fax: (703) 292-9044

DEADLINES ANNOUNCED: 09/14/2006 12/14/2006

PURPOSE: to increase interest, engagement, and understanding of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by individuals of all ages and backgrounds, as well as projects that advance knowledge and practice of informal science education. Projects may target either public audiences or professionals whose work directly affects informal STEM learning.

SUPPORT PROVIDED: The ISE program expects to make approximately 50 awards as Project Grants, Planning Grants, Conference, Symposia, and Workshop Grants, and Grant Supplements based on anticipated funding of $25 million in FY 2006 for new awards. ISE Project Grants: Project duration may be from one to five years. Awards may range from $100,000 to a maximum of $3 million for up to five years, with the exception of the Informal Science Education Resource Center, which may be funded to a maximum of $5 million over five years. Planning Grants. Project duration is to be no more than two years. The maximum award is $75,000. Conference, Symposia, and Workshop Grants. Project duration is expected to be no more than two years. The range for these awards is approximately $50,000 to $250,000. Grant Supplements. The maximum award is $200,000 or 20 percent of the total amount of the original award, whichever is less.

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National Science Foundation (NSF)
Directorate for Biological Sciences
Division of Emerging Frontiers
Frontiers in Integrative Biological Research (FIBR)

4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230
DEADLINES ANNOUNCED: 09/22/2006  02/16/2007

PURPOSE: to support integrative research that addresses major questions in the biological sciences. FIBR encourages investigators to identify major understudied or unanswered questions in biology and to use innovative approaches to address them by integrating the scientific concepts and research tools from across disciplines including biology, math and the physical sciences, engineering, social sciences, and the information sciences. Proposers are encouraged to focus on the biological significance of the question, to describe the integrative approaches, and to develop a research plan that is not limited by conceptual, disciplinary, or organizational boundaries. Particularly encouraged are the inclusion of young scientists trained in an interdisciplinary environment or in nonbiological disciplines, and partnerships with underrepresented minority-serving and primarily undergraduate institutions and community colleges.

SUPPORT PROVIDED: NSF anticipates that approximately $6.4 million will be available to support approximately 10 new full proposals in FY 2007. Funding decisions for full research proposals are anticipated by the end of July 2007, with awards expected to start in September 2007. The award size will be determined based on the nature of activities and at a level that would be enabling, as well as the availability of funds. The award duration will be up to five years.

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program
Sustainable Community Grants

Contact: Partnership Grants
Hills Building
105 Carrigan Drive
Burlington, VT 05405-0082
Phone: (802)656-0471 Fax: (802)656-4656
E-mail: nesare@uvm.edu
Web Site: http://www.uvm.edu/~nesare/
DEADLINE: November 28, 2006

The Northeast SARE region is made up of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

PURPOSE: to reconnect rural revitalization and farming. Projects can address diverse issues such as land use, nutrition, employment, markets, education, farm labor, public policy, and environmental quality. We seek proposals that will bring together farmers, local government, citizens, community nonprofits, extension, civic and environmental organizations, and others who contribute to community vitality. Projects should support appropriate growth, improved quality of life, a cleaner environment, and farm diversity and profitability.

To apply, you must be affiliated with an organization such as a community nonprofit, Cooperative Extension, local government, an educational institution, a planning board, a farming cooperative, or an incorporated citizens’ group.

FUNDING: Grants are capped at $10,000. The entire budget for the project can exceed $10,000 through matching funds, gifts, in-kind donations, and other resources, but the SARE portion of the budget cannot exceed $10,000.
**Rainforest Alliance**

**Kleinhans Fellowship for Research in Tropical Non-Timber Forest Products**

Deanna Newsom  
Kleinhans Fellowship for Research in Tropical Non-Timber Forest Products  
665 Broadway, Suite 500  
New York, NY 10012  
Phone: (212)677-1900 or (888)MY-EARTH (toll free)  
Fax: (212)677-2187  
E-mail: dnewsom@ra.org  

**DEADLINES ANNOUNCED:** 12/31/2006

This program occurs every three years. The Rainforest Alliance seeks alternatives to deforestation that provide economic support for rainforest communities. The Kleinhans Fellowship supports research to better understand and improve the impacts of non-timber forest product (NTFP) harvest and marketing on rural livelihoods and tropical forest ecosystems. A successful application will outline the need for research, its potential applications and its likely impact on local communities and forest ecosystems. Examples of potential research topics include: the development of new markets for NTFPs, and/or the expansion of existing markets; the development of Best Management Practices for commercial NTFPs; the impacts of NTFP harvests and/or their commercialization on rural livelihoods, biodiversity or land tenure; or means of integrating NTFP harvests and timber forest management. The Kleinhans Fellowship research area is restricted to Latin America. Applications for projects conducted in the Peten region of Guatemala or Southern Mexico are especially encouraged.

**SUPPORT PROVIDED:** The fellowship provides a grant of US$15,000 per year for two years.

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**Sigma Xi**

**Grants-in-Aid of Research**

P.O. Box 13975  
3106 East NC Highway 54  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709  
Phone: 800-243-6534 or 919-549-4691  
E-mail: mailto:mgiar@sigmaxi.org  
Fax: 919-549-0090

**DEADLINE:** October 15, 2006

**PURPOSE:** The Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid of Research (GIAR) program awards grants of up to $1,000 to students from all areas of the sciences and engineering. Designated funds from the National Academy of Sciences allow for grants of up to $5,000 for astronomy research and $2,500 for vision related research. Students use the funding to pay for travel expenses to and from a research site, or for purchase of non-standard laboratory equipment necessary to complete a specific research project.

While [membership in Sigma Xi](http://www.sigmaxi.org/programs/giar/index.shtml) is not a requirement for applying for funding from the Grants-in-Aid of Research program, approximately 75% of funds are restricted for use by dues paying student members of Sigma Xi or students whose project advisor is a dues paying member of Sigma Xi. Students from any country are eligible to receive funding.
**Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund (TREE Fund)**

*John Z. Duling Grant Program*

**Contact:** Cindy Stachkowsk
Executive Director
1402 West Anthony Drive
P.O. Box 3188
Champaign, IL 61826
**Phone:** (217)239-7070  **Fax:** (217)355-9516
**E-mail:** treefund@treefund.org
**Web Site:** [http://www.treefund.org/](http://www.treefund.org/)

**DEADLINE:** 11/01/2006

**PURPOSE:** The TREE Fund announces the 2006 Hyland R. Johns Grant Program. Since 1975, the TREE Fund has awarded small grants to aid, stimulate and encourage scientific studies of trees.

**FUNDING:** Proposals must be received (not postmarked) by November 1. No FAX or reduced copies of the original will be accepted. Applications sent electronically will not be accepted.

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**U.S. Department of Education**

*Selected Upcoming Grant Deadlines*


**DEADLINE FOR THE FOLLOWING GRANTS:** 11/16/2006

See the website for specific contact information and program details.

- **Reading and Writing Education Research [IES]**
  - **Purpose:** to contribute to improvement of reading and writing skills.
  - **Estimated Range of Awards:** $100,000 to $1,200,000 for up to 5 years.

- **Mathematics and Science Education Research [IES]**
  - **Purpose:** (1) identifying curriculum and instructional practices that are potentially effective for improving mathematics or science outcomes, as well as mediators and moderators of the effects of these practices; (2) developing new interventions and approaches to mathematics and science education that will eventually result in improving mathematics and science achievement; (3) establishing the efficacy of existing interventions and approaches to mathematics and science education with small efficacy or replication trials; (4) providing evidence on the effectiveness of mathematics and science interventions implemented at scale; and (5) developing and validating assessments for diagnosing sources of mathematics difficulties.
  - **Estimated Range of Awards:** $100,000 to $1,200,000 for up to 5 years.

- **Teacher Quality -- Mathematics and Science Research [IES]**
  - **Purpose:** to identify effective strategies for improving the performance of teachers in ways that lead to increases in students' mathematics and science learning, and to develop practical assessments of teacher knowledge and validate these assessments against measures of student performance.
  - **Estimated Range of Awards:** $100,000 to $1,200,000 for up to 5 years.

- **Research on High School Reform [IES]**
  - **Purpose:** to support research that will identify ways to improve high school education, measured by such objective indicators as higher test scores, higher graduation rates, and more successful transitions from high school into the world of work and postsecondary education.
  - **Estimated Range of Awards:** $100,000 to $1,200,000 for up to 5 years.
Postsecondary Education [IES]
Purpose: (1) identifying policies, programs or practices that are associated with improving access to, persistence in, or completion of postsecondary education; (2) developing new programs, practices, or policies that are intended to improve access to, persistence in, or completion of, in postsecondary education; (3) evaluating the efficacy of programs, practices, or policies that are intended to improve access to, persistence in, or completion of postsecondary education; (4) providing evidence on the effectiveness of programs, practices, or policies for improving access to, persistence in, or completion of, postsecondary education that are implemented at scale; and (5) developing and validating assessments of cognitive (e.g., problem-solving, creativity, writing) social cognitive (e.g., communication and interpersonal skills) and non-cognitive (e.g., responsibility, initiative) skills that are indicators of readiness for the work environment and outcomes of postsecondary education.
Estimated Range of Awards: $100,000 to $1,200,000 for up to 5 years.

Response to Intervention -- Special Education Research[IES]
Purpose: to contribute to the improvement of instruction for students with disabilities and to the prevention of inappropriate identification of specific learning disabilities.
Estimated Range of Awards: $100,000 to $1,200,000 for up to 5 years.

Teacher Quality and Quality of Other Service Providers for Students with Disabilities -- Special Education Research[IES]
Purpose: to identify effective strategies for preparing future teachers and other service providers of students with disabilities, or for improving the performance of current teachers and service providers of students with disabilities, in ways that increase student learning and school achievement.
Estimated Range of Awards: $100,000 to $1,200,000 for up to 5 years.

Secondary and Transition Services -- Special Education Research[IES]
Purpose: to contribute to the improvement of secondary and transition programs and outcomes for secondary (middle school and high school) students with disabilities.
Estimated Range of Awards: $100,000 to $1,200,000 for up to 5 years.

Individualized Education Programs -- Special Education Research[IES]
Purpose: focuses on the development and evaluation of training programs for IEP teams, as well as methods of managing and monitoring the IEP process, that will result in education services that are better aligned with scientifically based research and that enhance the achievement and development of students with disabilities.
Estimated Range of Awards: $100,000 to $1,200,000 for up to 5 years.

Welder (Rob and Bessie) Wildlife Foundation
Graduate Fellowships in Wildlife Ecology and Related Areas

Director, Welder Wildlife Foundation
P.O. Box 1400
Sinton, TX 78387
Phone: (361)364-2643  Fax: (361)364-2650
E-mail: welderwf@aol.com
Web Site: http://www.hometown.aol.com/welderwf/welderweb.html
DEADLINES ANNOUNCED: 10/01/2006

PURPOSE: offers fellowships for graduate students in wildlife ecology and related areas. The scientific breadth of the research scholarship program includes the following academic units: animal behavior, biology, botany, conservation education, ecology, mammalogy, ornithology, parasitology, range science, veterinary pathology, and wildlife sciences. Academic institutions are responsible for the competitive selection and supervision of scholarship recipients, subject to foundation approval. Awards are made directly to properly accredited U.S. colleges or universities for bona fide graduate students who are
approved candidates for M.S. or Ph.D. degrees, after project proposals have been submitted to and approved by the foundation. 

SUPPORT PROVIDED: Scholarships for full-time students amount to $1,300 per month for M.S. candidates and $1,400 per month for Ph.D. candidates, such amounts to cover living costs, tuition, fees, and books.

APPLICANT INFORMATION: Scholarships are awarded directly to properly accredited U.S. colleges or universities for bona fide graduate students who are approved candidates for M.S. or Ph.D. degrees, after project proposals have been submitted to and approved by the Foundation. To be eligible for financial support, a student must have a minimum GRE score of 1100 (verbal plus quantitative) and a "B" average in the last two years of undergraduate or graduate work.