**Graduate Research Plan Instructions**

The **Graduate Research Plan** **Template** has been formatted to the requirements of the GRFP Solicitation. Follow the instructions, then **REMOVE** all instructional text in brackets [], before you input your own content into the **two-page** Graduate Research Plan.

**General Instructions:**Present an original research topic you would like to pursue in graduate school. Your statement should include:

* The research idea and proposed approach
* Resources needed
* Potential to advance knowledge in your field (**Intellectual Merit**)
* Potential to benefit society (**Broader Impacts**).

Your research must be in a field listed in the GRFP Solicitation (see Appendix for Fields of Study).

* Keep section headings exactly as shown: **Intellectual Merit** and **Broader Impacts**
* Other headings are allowed
* Follow all formatting rules listed
* Line break between sections
* Before submission, replace ALL instructional text with your own content
* **Applications that deviate from this format will be considered non-compliant and will be returned without review (i.e., will not be considered for a fellowship).**

**Formatting Checklist**

* **Page size:** 8.5” x 11”
* **Page limit:** Two (2) PDF pages for the Graduate Research Plan
* **Sections:** Separate sections may be any length within the overall page limit and may appear in any order. *Note: section length is not restricted to the space currently shown in the template.*
* **Font:** Arial (not Arial Narrow), Courier New, or Palatino Linotype (10 pt or larger) OR Times New Roman / Computer Modern (11 pt or larger)
* **Margins:** 1” on all sides, no text in margins (no header, footer, name, or page number)
* **Line spacing:** Single spaced; no more than 6 lines of text per vertical inch (do not shrink spacing to fit more text)
* **Figures/Charts:** include descriptive alternative text; must be included for all images, figures, graphs, and charts
* **Links:** Do not include URLs or external website links
* **References:** Must include journal or publication name (abbreviations accepted). DOIs and URLs are not accepted

**Tips:** Reviewers will look for evidence of:

* How your research advances knowledge and understanding in your field
* Whether the rationale for your research plan is clear and compelling
* Your ability to: plan and conduct research, work independently and/or as part of a team, solve problems
* Your familiarity with relevant literature
* Whether your research plan is logical.

Note: You do not need to address every bullet. These are examples of qualities and experiences.

**Graduate Research Plan**

**Research Title:** [Insert your research title here.]

**Summary of Graduate Research Plan:** [Insert your Graduate Research Plan here. This section must include both Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts, under separate headings as shown below. Other sections and headings are allowed.]

**Intellectual Merit**[State the Intellectual Merit of your Graduate Research Plan here. Keep this heading exactly as shown. Do not add other terms or combine with other sections. *See GRFP Solicitation for definitions and guidance related to Intellectual Merit.*]

**Broader Impacts**[State the Broader Impacts of your Graduate Research Plan here. Keep this heading exactly as shown. Do not add other terms or combine with other sections. *See GRFP Solicitation for definitions and guidance related to Broader Impacts.*]

**References:** [List cited references here. References must include journal or publication name (abbreviations accepted). DOIs and URLs are not accepted.]