

Frequently Asked Questions for the Research Awards Program and Application

ELIGIBILITY:

I am a legal permanent resident; can I apply?

Yes.

Do you need proof of U.S. citizenship?

No.

I am a foreign student studying in the U.S. under a student visa (F1-visa). Am I eligible to apply?

Yes.

I am a part-time student. Am I eligible?

You must be enrolled as a full-time student at the time of application or anticipate that you will be a full-time student by the start of your proposed research.

I completed my undergraduate degree in the spring of 2017 and I'm now doing research at a DOE national laboratory. I'm applying to Ph.D. programs to start in the fall of 2017. Am I eligible?

No.

How many semester credits are considered full-time?

The number of semester credits a student must be enrolled to be determined by the student's academic institution. Typically, this is 12 credits for undergraduate studies or 9 credits for graduate studies. However, this will vary with university. The Hydro Research Awards Program will use what the academic institution determines as full-time.

I am a third year graduate student. Am I eligible?

Yes, as long as you will be a full-time student at the time the research award will begin and will complete your research by May 2018.

I'm applying to the NSF graduate fellowship, am I still eligible to apply for the Hydro Research Awards Program?

You are still eligible to apply to the Hydro Research Awards Program. If you are selected for both the Hydro Research Awards Program and another Federal fellowship, you can accept only one. The Hydro Research Awards Program cannot be accepted concurrently with another Federal fellowship.

I currently have another graduate fellowship. Does this make me ineligible for the Hydro Research Awards Program?

The Hydro Foundation Research Awards Program at full levels of funding is considered to be full-time support. If you currently have another federal graduate fellowship that provides tuition and living stipend support, you are not eligible for the Hydro Research Awards Program. If you have any form of support from your institution or an organization that will be in effect when the Research Awards Program will begin, you must disclose this information and state what you will do with the support.

I have a master's degree in another field. Does this make me ineligible?

The previous master's degree in another field does not affect your eligibility. You are eligible to apply if you are completing your Master's Degree or post-Masters research project in a relevant field by May 2018.

I took time off from school to work. Am I eligible?

To be eligible you must be a full-time student in a qualified graduate program by the start of your proposed research.

Is there a minimum GPA or GRE required to be considered for the Research Awards program?

No. The personal statement and research plan, program of study, reference letters, transcripts, GPA and GRE are important parts of application process of this competitive Research Award and are all taken into consideration when reviewed.

My graduate school does not require the GRE so I do not have GRE scores. What do I do?

You should note this in your application materials so that reviewers are aware of the situation and your application is considered complete and considered without penalty.

I'm currently a senior undergraduate planning to graduate this spring, but I transferred to my current university a year ago. Do I use my current GPA from this university or should I add in the GPA from my previous school?

You should use your current undergraduate GPA from the university you currently attend, which should include your spring grades, and separately report your GPA from your previous school. These GPAs should be reflected on your official transcript.

I am a first year Ph.D. student but I have completed a Master's degree from a different university, am I eligible or am I considered a third year graduate student?

As a first year Ph.D. student, you are eligible to apply if you plan to complete your research by May 2018.

I'm in my 4th year of graduate school but the 2nd year of my Ph.D. program at the same university that I did my Master's

degree. Am I still eligible for this program?

Yes, you are eligible as long as you are planning on completing your research by May 2018.

My department requires all graduate students to perform teaching to qualify for a doctoral degree. Am I eligible?

Yes. You must demonstrate that the degree and research work funded by the Research Awards Program will be completed in the time frames covered by the Foundation.

QUALIFIED GRADUATE PROGRAM:

I am not sure if my field of study is eligible. How do I find out?

The goal of the Hydro Research Awards Program is to encourage outstanding students to pursue graduate study and research in areas related to conventional and pumped storage hydropower. Please review the Hydro Research Foundation's research topic of interest for more information.

I am a senior undergraduate just beginning to apply to graduate programs. If I don't know what graduate program I will be attending in the Fall, am I still eligible to apply?

Yes, but you must be accepted into a qualified graduate program and be enrolled in the program by the time your proposed research is to begin. In addition, your future advisor must write a letter of support. If you are selected for an award, you will be required to verify your acceptance to a qualified graduate program before you receive a formal offer. You must also be able to complete your research by May 2018.

APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Do you need an official transcript from my college/university?

Upon acceptance into the program, official transcripts will need to be submitted. For your application unofficial transcripts are required.

Where do I have my official transcripts sent?

This information will be provided to you when the offer letter is sent to you.

Do you need a copy of my undergraduate and graduate transcripts?

You must submit a copy of the official transcripts from all universities/colleges listed upon acceptance into the program.

I attend graduate school at the institution that awarded my undergraduate degree. Do you need 2 transcripts, or can I submit one that includes all coursework at that university on it?

You may submit one transcript, as long as it includes all undergraduate and graduate work.

Do I have to wait until I submit my application before I ask reference writers to send in a reference forms?

No. As soon as you begin your application, you should provide the reference form to your reference writers. All of your letters of reference must be received by the application deadline.

I am a senior undergraduate and have not chosen a graduate advisor yet so I don't know what my dissertation research will be? How should I complete the Proposed Plan of Research?

If you are not currently enrolled in a graduate program and have not determined your thesis/dissertation research topic, contact future advisor(s) in your area of interest and discuss the research areas that she/he may want you to pursue. Remember you must be able to complete your research by May 2018.

Can I use reference letters that were already written for other programs or an award?

No, the Foundation has a specific reference that needs to be used and is available on the website.

Can I submit more than two reference forms?

Only two references that are entered into the application will be reviewed; supplemental reference letters will not be reviewed. Additional reference writers are allowed in the event that a reference writer is delayed in provided a response and the applicant needs to select an alternate.

How will I know if my reference writer received my request for a reference form to be submitted?

Applicants will be notified of their application status upon receipt of information.

My reference has questions about the reference process and/or the Program. Where should I direct him/her?

References may contact the Managing Director at info@hydrofoundation.org

ONLINE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

How can I confirm that my electronically submitted application was received?

Applicants will be notified of their application status via email within a week of the application deadline.

Can I send supplemental materials such as publications or research results, with my application?

Supplemental materials are accepted, but on a limited basis. Applicants may submit cover pages, abstracts, and publications. Additional information will not be reviewed.

When will I be notified if I did or did not receive an award?

If you are selected for a Research Award you will be notified by April 15th, 2017. You will be notified if you were not selected for the Research Award Program by mid-May 2017.

When does the Hydro Research Award Program start?

The Research Award start date is June 15th - September 1st, 2017.