

## TIPS FOR STUDENTS\*

### Highly effective fellowship recipients:

#### Get Organized! Set up a file system!

- ◆ **Research their options**  
To find a program or a fellowship that matches your interests and goals, plan on doing some serious research. The money won't necessarily come to you – you have to go to it (or at least tell them how to find you...).
- ◆ **Don't just apply for the money**  
They want the degree - academic teaching, research, industry, etc.
- ◆ **Pay attention to the guidelines (especially deadlines!)**  
Essential elements of the application missing (letters, transcripts, etc.) is a no-no.
- ◆ **Demonstrate strong writing skills**  
Double check for spelling and grammar errors. Pay attention to the smallest details. Must show proficiency with the English language. Get friends, professors, mentors to proof your work.
- ◆ **Want to make a difference**  
Applications that show no evidence that the applicant wants to make a difference don't go very far.

### Winning fellowship applications demonstrate or include:

- ◆ **You have leadership potential**  
Evidence that the applicant has made a difference already (reflected in recommendations, previous research experience, or other experiences, etc.)
- ◆ **A consistent message in your application**  
Recommendations confirm other information in application
- ◆ **Undergraduate research experience**  
Demonstrates interest, commitment, and hopefully skills
- ◆ **You have the ability to pose a research problem and suggest a way to solve it**  
A working knowledge of the scientific method
- ◆ **Your professional goals are in line with funding program guidelines**  
A goal of academic teaching, research, industry that aligns with school or funder
- ◆ **Your proposed plan of study is sound**  
Plan reflects enthusiasm and interest in the field of study
- ◆ **You have the ability to achieve academically and to conduct research**  
As shown through transcripts, letters, undergraduate research experience
- ◆ **Your application reflects care**  
Attention to detail, editing, completeness
- ◆ **Strong letters of reference (make sure to contact references early and provide them with your information)**  
References attest to research ability: are thoughtful and well written by supportive faculty and/or mentor
- ◆ **High GPA**  
High GPA (3.0 or higher); show steady improvement; strength in area of interest
- ◆ **High GRE scores**  
Important but not always the deciding factor
- ◆ **Focused personal statement**  
Personal statement that reveals deep interest in and motivation toward research
- ◆ **Pay attention to the restrictions**  
Some programs put a limit on the number of credit hours you can have finished before application.
- ◆ **Follow directions**  
Although this may seem obvious, follow the directions in the application packet to the letter.
- ◆ **The name thing...**  
When applying for fellowships, you should be consistent in how you report your name. The name on your SS card, your graduate school admissions application, and your fellowship application should be identical.
- ◆ **Supporting documents matter**  
Letters of Reference and Statements of Purpose can make a difference in the selection process.
- ◆ **Keep trying--** If you don't get an award one year, apply again next year!

\*drawn from GEM Consortium Partners