

National Science Foundation—Boise State University
Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education (GK-12)
Information Sheet

What is a GK-12 Fellow? BSU GK-12 Fellows are highly qualified graduate students in the biological sciences and geosciences who are funded to collaborate with educators at one of three local learning centers (The Foothills Learning Center, Discovery Center of Idaho, Boise WaterShed Environmental Education Center) to develop and deliver K-12 learning activities. Goals of BSU's GK-12 program include: 1) Enhancing the educational experiences of BSU graduate students, especially with regard to their ability to communicate scientific concepts to non-science audiences; 2) Increasing K-12 students' understanding and enthusiasm for geosciences and the biological sciences; and 3) Development of a collaborative partnership between BSU and the K-12 community.

What are the obligations of Fellows? Fellows are expected to spend at least 10 hours per week working directly with K-12 teachers and students and an additional 5 hours per week on preparatory activities. Fellows participate in weekly meetings with the project team, record their activities in a weekly log, and participate in program evaluation activities. Fellows will also need to complete any volunteer/staff training programs at the partner learning center with which they are working. Fellow appointments are for 12 months, and Fellows will need to be available exclusively to the project for 5 days in July for training activities.

What is the Fellow stipend? Fellows' stipends are \$30,000 per 12 months starting July 1, 2010. The program also provides a cost-of-education allowance for tuition and fees. Fellowships are awarded for one year only. A Fellow may apply for a second year of funding, but no student will be funded for more than two years.

Who should apply? Fellows must be full-time graduate students and must be United States citizens or permanent residents. Fellows should have initiated their research and should have completed the majority of their program coursework (i.e. applications from incoming graduate students will only be considered under special circumstances). Applicants should have excellent academic records (GPA of at least 3.0) and should have a desire to interact with K-12 students, teachers, and the community. Applicants also need to have enough flexibility in their schedules to meet the obligations of the program. *Students with research interests that are relevant to local or regional science issues are especially encouraged to apply.*

What is the application process? To apply, please fill out an application form. The application requires an unofficial copy of your academic transcripts, two letters of recommendation (one must be from your thesis or dissertation advisor), a CV, and a personal statement (see application form for guidelines.)

Please submit all application materials by **February 22, 2010**. Screening of applications will begin immediately, and selected applicants will be interviewed during the first week of March. We expect to fund eight Fellows during the 2010-2011 year.

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APPLICATION

Name: _____

BSU student ID #: _____

e-mail address: _____

telephone number: _____

Graduate program enrolled in: _____

Graduate advisor: _____

Expected graduation date: _____

Are you a (circle one)? US citizen US national permanent resident

Please submit the following application materials with this cover sheet:

- 1) An unofficial copy of your academic transcripts (undergraduate and graduate)
- 2) A CV
- 3) A personal statement that describes your career goals, your research interests, what you hope to gain from being a GK-12 Fellow, what you think you can contribute to the program, and any relevant work, teaching, or volunteer experiences you've had.
- 4) Two letters of recommendation. One of the letters must be from your thesis advisor.

Application materials should be **submitted by February 22** to Dr. Karen Viskupic, Department of Geosciences, mailstop 1535 through campus mail, or you can place your application in her mailbox in room MG-121.

Please contact Karen with any questions: karenaviskupic@boisestate.edu or 426-3658.