
Mathematics Opportunities

NSF Focused Research Groups

The Focused Research Groups (FRG) activity of the Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS) of the National Science Foundation (NSF) supports small groups of researchers in the mathematical sciences.

The DMS has announced deadline dates for the fiscal year 2003 competition for FRG grants. The deadline for receipt of the required letters of intent to submit FRG proposals is **August 19, 2003**. The deadline date for full proposals is **September 19, 2003**.

The FRG solicitation may be found on the Web at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2002/nsf02129/nsf02129.htm>.

—From an NSF announcement

NSF Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

The Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowship program of the Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS) of the National Science Foundation (NSF) awards fellowships each year for research in pure mathematics, applied mathematics and operations research, and statistics. The deadline for this year's applications is **October 17, 2003**. Applications must be submitted via FastLane on the World Wide Web. Go to <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/> and click on "Postdoctoral Fellowships". Information can be found there for the Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships, as well as other NSF fellowship opportunities. For more information, telephone the DMS at 703-306-1870 or email: msprf@nsf.gov.

—From an NSF announcement

COBASE Collaborative Grants

With funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Office for Central Europe and Eurasia of the National Research Council, the operating arm of the National Academies, offers grants to individual American specialists who plan to establish new research partnerships with their colleagues from Central/Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Newly Independent States (NIS). This program is designed primarily to prepare these new partnerships for competition in NSF programs. The Collaboration in Basic Science and Engineering (COBASE) program accepts proposals for collaborative research in all fields of basic science supported by NSF. Mathematics is one of the fields in which applications will be given special priority.

Project Development and Initiation Grants support American specialists who wish to host and/or visit their CEE or NIS colleagues in order to initiate research projects and prepare collaborative research proposals for submission to the NSF. U.S. applicants may now request support for up to two visits in either or both directions (i.e., either traveling to CEE/NIS or hosting a colleague from the region here in the U.S.), with the total combined duration of the visit(s) not to exceed eight weeks. Each individual visit proposed must be at least two weeks (10–14 days) in length. Grants will be in the range of \$2,500 to \$10,000.

Participating countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia (hosting in U.S. only), Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, (Former Yugoslav Republic of) Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia (see website for updated list of ineligible partner institutions), Serbia and Montenegro (hosting in U.S. only), Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. A special topic focus area this year is Central Asia. Proposals involving collaboration with scientists in the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan are especially encouraged. Projects may be in any of the accepted fields of science and engineering listed in the program announcement and

may include partners from more than one eligible foreign country if appropriate for the research proposed.

Eligibility: All applicants must: (1) be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, (2) be affiliated with U.S. universities or other nonprofit research institutions, and (3) possess Ph.D. degrees or equivalent research experience. Foreign counterparts involved must possess CEE/NIS citizenship, be permanently employed at CEE/NIS institutions, and hold Ph.D. (kandidat) degrees or research training and experience equivalent to a doctoral degree. Employees of private companies and the U.S. government generally are not supported under the COBASE program. Each set of partners may receive no more than one COBASE grant, and each individual may be involved in no more than two grants in a four-year period. Generally, those who hold a current NSF grant and are eligible for an NSF international supplement should not apply to this program.

Special Opportunities for Junior Investigators: American applicants who have received their doctoral degrees within the past ten years will receive special consideration. The COBASE program allocates at least 25 percent of its grants to researchers in this category in order to encourage beginning investigators to become involved in international collaboration.

Collaborative proposals involving any field of mathematics are welcome, including but not limited to algebra and number theory, analysis, computational mathematics, geometric analysis, statistics and probability, and topology and foundations. Projects in applied mathematics involving collaborations with specialists from other fields such as the biological, computer, and environmental sciences are also encouraged. Collaborative research proposals involving the modeling of complexity are particularly welcome.

The postmarking deadline for proposals is **August 25, 2003**. For application forms and instructions, visit the website http://www7.nationalacademies.org/dsc/COBASE_Grants_Program.html. For more information, telephone 202-334-2644, send a fax to 202-334-2614, or send email to occe@nas.edu.

—From an NAS announcement

DMS/NIGMS Program in Mathematical Biology

The Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS) of the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) at the National Institutes of Health sponsor the Joint DMS/NIGMS Initiative to Support Research in the Area of Mathematical Biology. The initiative focuses on mathematics and statistics related to mathematical biology research.

The DMS and the NIGMS recognize the need for additional research at the boundary between the mathematical sciences and the life sciences. This competition is designed to encourage new collaborations at this interface, as well as to support existing ones.

Awards made through this competition are dependent upon responsiveness of the proposals to the announcement, the quality of the proposed research, and the availability of funds. The DMS and the NIGMS anticipate making 20–25 awards totaling about \$6 million in each of the fiscal years 2003–2005. The projected range is from \$100,000 to \$400,000 per award per year (total costs), with durations of 4–5 years.

The program announcement is on the webpage <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2002/nsf02125/nsf02125.htm>. The next deadline for proposals is **June 30, 2004**.

—NSF announcement

Call for Nominations for National Academies Communication Awards

The National Academies is accepting nominations for the new National Academies Communication Awards for excellence in reporting and communicating science and technology to the general public. Three \$20,000 prizes will be presented to scientists, engineers, medical researchers, journalists, authors, and film/television/radio producers who, in the preceding two years, have made special contributions to the public's understanding of science or the promise of cutting-edge interdisciplinary research.

The Communication Awards are one component of a new initiative called the "National Academies Keck Futures Initiative", which is designed to realize the untapped potential of interdisciplinary research.

Nominations must be received by **August 1, 2003**. The first three winners will be honored at the National Academies' Beckman Center in Irvine, California, during the Keck Futures Conference to be held November 14–16, 2003.

For information on eligibility, submission requirements, and nomination procedures, visit <http://www.nationalacademies.org/keck/awards>.

—From a National Academies announcement