



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I06110040

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We initiated an investigation after receiving allegations that a graduate student¹ may have violated the conditions of a NSF foreign exchange program by leaving the program several weeks prior to the official ending of the program then provided false information about his return date. The graduate student had received the NSF fellowship², which provided funds³ for travel, expenses and summer stipend to participate in the foreign exchange program. The NSF program office was notified that the student did not attend the end of the program and requested a response from the student. The student provided unclear information about his return date and the reasons for the early departure. The NSF Program Office referred the matter to us for investigation.

When interviewed for our investigation, the graduate student admitted that he did attend the first 4 weeks of the program and conducted research with his foreign sponsors which resulted in two publications. However the student also admitted that he left the program three weeks early without receiving appropriate approvals, and later provided inaccurate information about his return date to the NSF Program Office. The student wrote a check⁴ to NSF for the portion of expenses and stipend that the student received for the three weeks he did not participate in the program. The student also apologized to the NSF program staff for his actions and promised "that it will never happen again."

Accordingly, this case is closed.

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