This document has been archived.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY STUDIES

Program Announcement

Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences

Proposal Target Dates: ***February 1 & August 1***

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Science and Technology Studies Program

The Science & Technology Studies (STS) program supports research and related activities that contribute to systematic understanding of the character and development of science and technology, including their cultural, intellectual, material and social dimensions. The program supports research on the nature and development of science and technology, both in the past and present, and on differences in the nature of theory and evidence in various fields of science and engineering. STS also supports research on the interactions among science, technology and society, including such topics as the foundations of scientific and technological knowledge and institutions; the relations between science and other social institutions and groups; and processes of scientific and technological innovation and change.[1] Proposals are welcome from various disciplinary perspectives, including history, philosophy, and the social sciences.

Except for doctoral dissertation research, STS studies of medicine, public health and society are not normally supported by the NSF. Researchers should contact the National Institutes of Health and/or the National Endowment for the Humanities for support of research in these fields.

Modes of Support

STS Scholars Awards

STS Scholars Awards are the program's usual mode for supporting research projects. Scholars Awards ordinarily support individual researchers for part or all of an academic year, for summer research, or for some combination of academic year and summer. Awards normally allow up to $18,000 for partial support of full-time summer research, including salary, fringe benefits and all other direct and indirect costs of research, or up to $60,000 for partial support of one or more semesters (or quarters) of full-time academic year release time and related direct and indirect research expenses. Summer support is limited to no more than 2/9ths academic year salary. Most projects are from one to three years long, but proposals of longer duration or that request larger amounts of support will be considered if extraordinarily well justified.

Research assistance may also be supported in these awards, if justified by the proposal's work plan. Normally, the limits for such support, including indirect costs, will be $6,000 per year for an undergraduate research assistant, $15,000 per year for a graduate student, and $36,000 per year (including fringe benefits) for a designated postdoctoral researcher.

STS Scholars Awards are normally made to institutions. Persons who cannot apply through an appropriate institution, however, may apply as individuals. In the latter case, the applicant must be a US citizen or national, or a person who has permanent resident status.

Grants for Collaborative Research

STS also supports research projects that require several investigators, or investigators and advisors, or collaboration among principal investigators (PIs). In preparing the budget for such collaborative projects, program limits as described for scholars awards for salaries and other expenses should be followed: for *each* PI $60,000 (including fringes and indirect costs) is normally allowed for full-time academic year research and $18,000 is normally allowed per summer. For collaborative projects that also require postdoctoral researchers or graduate student assistants, please consider "Small Grants for Training and Research," below.

Some collaborative projects are designed to develop research infrastructure, such as preparation of reference works, editions of scientific papers, or development of data bases and graphics resources for public use. Electronic dissemination of the results of such infrastructure projects should be the norm in STS projects.

STS Fellowships

Two sorts of fellowships are available:

Postdoctoral Fellowships for scholars within five years of the award date of their doctoral degrees, and Professional Development Fellowships for more senior scholars.

STS Professional Development and Postdoctoral Fellowships provide a stipend and travel allowance to the fellow and an activities support allowance to the host institution. The amount of the stipend depends on the fellow's prior earnings and work history; it can range from $36,000 to $60,000, including all costs. The activities support allowance can be used to cover direct or indirect costs associated with the fellowship. To assure appropriate processing, the cover sheet for these proposals should indicate "STS Fellowships" in the upper left hand box. The individual applying answers the questions and fills in the signature blocks at the bottom of the page.

Applicants for STS Professional Development and Postdoctoral Fellowships must be US citizens, nationals or long-term residents (i.e. have permanent resident status). Applicants may apply through their home institution, their host institution, or as individuals (in which case NSF will administer the award).

Postdoctoral Fellowships are available for STS researchers within 5 years of receipt of Ph.D. The chief purpose of these fellowships is to enhance the methodological skills of researchers in STS. Consequently, applications must contain **both** a training and a research component, and the site for the fellowship must be different from the institution where the fellow received the Ph.D. degree. These awards provide $36,000 (in total costs) per

[1] Researchers whose projects are concerned with ethical and social values, policies, and the obligations that arise in the interactions amoung science, technology and society should contact the Societal Dimensions of Engineering, Science and Technology Program of NSF.

year for up to two years for support of full-time academic year study and research. They also provide up to $3,000/year for travel and expenses and a $3,000/year institutional allowance for U. S. host institutions (a postdoc may hold the fellowship outside of the US, but the NSF cannot pay institutional fees to non-US institutions). There are no dependents allowances and moving expenses must be paid from the travel allowance.

Professional Development Fellowships (PDF) are available for researchers trained in history, philosophy, or social studies of science who wish to improve and expand their skills in the areas of science or engineering, and for physical and natural scientists and engineers who desire training in STS.

For example, historians, philosophers and social scientists may use this award to work with a scientist or engineer to learn the technical aspects of research in their area. Alternatively, scientists or engineers may use this award to work with a historian, philosopher or social scientist to learn the methods of research in STS. These awards provide as much as $60,000 in total costs, depending on the current salary of the applicant, for support of a full-time academic year of study and research in a field outside the applicant's current area of expertise. They also provide up to $3,000 for travel (moving expenses could be taken from this travel allowance if so desired, but there is no separate moving allowance) and $3,000 for US host institution allowance. There is no dependents allowance. PDFs must contain **both** a training and a research component. Letters from host scholars, describing their plans to work with the applicants, and from the host institutions, agreeing to provide appropriate space and facilities, must accompany these proposals.

A Fellowship application **must** include a letter from the host scholar describing plans to work with applicants and a letter from the host institution agreeing to provide appropriate space and facilities. Applicants for Postdoctoral Fellowships must also include a letter of recommendation from the applicant's dissertation supervisor.

No fellowship may begin until the Ph.D. granting institution has certified that the fellow has completed all requirements for the degree.

Doctoral Dissertation Research Grants

Doctoral Dissertation Research Grants provide funds for research expenses not normally available through the student's university. The dissertation advisor is the principal investigator on these applications; the doctoral student should be listed as co-principal investigator. Dissertation proposals should be prepared in accordance with the guidelines for regular research proposals.

No indirect costs are allowed, and the usual limit on an award is $8,000 for research in North America and $12,000 for work abroad. The proposal must include a letter of recommendation from the faculty advisor evaluating the student's promise as a researcher and the value and status of the proposed research. If the doctoral student will use the award for travel expenses to work with a specialist, the proposal should provide a justification for this choice and a letter from the specialist agreeing to work with the student. The proposal should include a statement indicating whether the student has passed the qualifying exams and all course work required for the dissertation. These requirements must be met before an award will be made.

Small Grants for Training and Research

Small Grants for Training and Research (SGTR) are intended to provide sustained research opportunities for a group of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows on important issues in STS. One or more senior investigators may propose a sustained course of study, research and training (for from one to three years) on a subject of significance. These training programs should have a specific research theme and the proposal should indicate how the training will be organized around the theme. The grants can provide a maximum of $100,000 per year to support one postdoctoral fellow and up to three graduate students. For projects of more than one year, PIs may retain or change the postdoc and graduate students. In addition to providing a research theme and plan, applicants should also indicate how they will recruit members of underrepresented groups into the programs and how they will educate participants about research ethics. The budget for training support belongs in the participant support costs section of the budget form, and no indirect costs can be applied to these budget items.

Note: SGTR proposals will only be considered in the Fall of each year. The target date for submission of these proposals is August 1. Because of budgetary constraints, STS may only fund 2 or 3 of these SGTRs each year. While these grants provide no support for the principal investigators, PI's may be supported under existing grants or may concurrently submit a regular research proposal.

Conferences and Workshops

STS can help to support national or international conferences, symposia, and research workshops that enable scientists, engineers, researchers in STS areas of support, policy makers, and representatives of interested groups to develop, evaluate, and share new research findings. Proposals for conference or workshop support should describe the need for the gathering, the proposed date and location, topics and persons who will be involved, prior related meetings, publicity, and expected outcomes. Every effort must be made to include among proposed participants younger scholars and members of underrepresented groups. Conferences and workshops may, where justified, be carried out as special sessions in regular meetings of professional societies. STS gives priority to those conferences and symposia that promote interactions between researchers in STS and scientists and engineers. Concomitant support by several Federal agencies or private organizations is encouraged. Unless there is a strong justification, STS normally limits support for conferences and workshops to $10,000.

Other Grant Opportunities

NSF does not normally support the purchase of personal computers, but the program will consider requests for instrumentation such as CD-ROM readers or computers for **research** purposes. Priority will be given to requests that involve use by all faculty and graduate students in a department. Supplements are also available to create research experiences for undergraduates.

Administration of Awards

STS Scholars Awards are made on a fixed amount basis subject to the conditions of the grant instrument and this Announcement. A fixed amount award represents a predetermined amount for NSF support of the proposed research without regard to the subsequent costs of the project. Note to Institutional Research Administrators: grants awarded on a fixed amount basis are not subject to Federal cost principles as contained in OMB Circular A-21. As part of the final report required by the grant general conditions, the grantee will be requested to certify that the level of effort funded was actually expended.

Upon completion of the project a Final Project Report (NSF Form 98A), including the Part IV Summary, will be required. NSF will send the form with Part I information preprinted to the Principal Investigator (Project Director) approximately one month prior to the grant's expiration date. Applicants should review the sample form in the GPG prior to proposal submission so that appropriate tracking mechanisms are included in the proposal plan to ensure that complete information will be available at the conclusion of the project.

When to Submit

Except for the SGTR program, which is limited to August 1 of each year, formal proposals should be sent to NSF by February 1 and August 1. Express mail service is not necessary. Generally, proposals are reviewed and the results communicated to applicants within six months of those target dates. Until a decision is announced, no information can be provided on the probability of support.

What to Submit

Except as modified by this Announcement, all applicants should follow the standard NSF guidelines in the NSF Grants Proposal Guide (the "GPG"—NSF 95-27). All proposals should contain the sections outlined in GPG in the order indicated. GPG contains all of the forms needed for formal submissions. It is available from: Forms and Publications Unit, NSF, 4201 Wilson Blvd. Arlington VA 22230 703-306-1130, and can be requested electronically via the Internet at: pubs@nsf.gov.

19 copies of each proposal, including one copy bearing original signatures, should be mailed to:

Announcement No. 97-142
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd. Room P60
Arlington VA 22230

Only one (1) copy of NSF Form 1225, Information about Principal Investigator/Project Director, should be sent, attached to the original signed proposal. One copy of the proposal should be sent directly to the STS Program in Room 995 of NSF.

Proposal Review

Proposals will be reviewed in accordance with the **new** NSF merit review criteria. These criteria are: What is the intellectual merit and quality of the proposed activity? and What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity? In effect, the first criterion asks reviewers to judge the importance of the proposed activity for advancing knowledge, the qualifications of the investigator(s), the creativity and organization of the activity, and the adequacy of available resources. The second criterion asks reviewers to judge how much the proposed activity will advance teaching and learning, broaden the participation of groups traditionally underrepresented, improve infrastructure for research and education, enhance understanding of scientific and technological issues, and benefit society. Further details about review criteria and other matters are available in the Grant Proposal Guide.

Normally, proposals are reviewed in two stages: merit review from knowledgeable researchers followed by review by a panel made up of historians, philosophers and social scientists who study science and technology. In preparing a proposal, PIs should recognize the differences in these two kinds of review: merit review from specialists and panel review by researchers who look at the project's potential contribution to the broader STS community. PIs are welcome to suggest potential reviewers and to request that the proposal not be sent to certain reviewers (no explanation is needed for such a request). Such suggestions should be sent in a letter separate from the formal proposal. The STS program will do its best to honor such requests.

For further information about the STS program, contact:

Dr. Edward J. Hackett
ehackett@nsf.gov

Dr. John Perhonis
jperhoni@nsf.gov

Science & Technology Studies Program
National Science Foundation, Room 995
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22230
Tel: 703-306-1742 Fax: 703-306-0485

STS web address:
www.nsf.gov/sbe/sber/sts/start.htm

The Foundation provides awards for research and education in the sciences and engineering. The awardee is wholly responsible for the conduct of such research and preparation of the

results for publication. The Foundation, therefore, does not assume responsibility for the research findings or their interpretation.

The Foundation welcomes proposals from all qualified scientists and engineers and strongly encourages women, minorities, and persons with disabilities to compete fully in any of the research and education related programs described here. In accordance with federal statutes, regulations, and NSF policies, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from the National Science Foundation.

Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASED) provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities (investigators and other staff, including student research assistants) to work on NSF projects. See the program announcement or contact the program coordinator at (703) 306-1636.

Privacy Act. The information requested on proposal forms is solicited under the authority of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. It will be used in connection with the selection of qualified proposals and may be disclosed to qualified reviewers and staff assistants as part of the review process; to applicant institutions/grantees; to provide or obtain data regarding the application review process, award decisions, or the administration of awards; to government contractors, experts, volunteers, and researchers as necessary to complete assigned work; and to other government agencies in order to coordinate programs. See Systems of Records, NSF 50, Principal Investigators/Proposal File and Associated Records, and NSF-51, 60 Federal Register 4449 (January 23, 1995), Reviewer/Proposal File and Associated Records, 59 Federal Register 8031 (February 17, 1994).

Public Burden. Submission of the information is voluntary. Failure to provide full and complete information, however, may reduce the possibility of your receiving an award.

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 120 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Gail A. McHenry, Reports Clearance Officer, Information Dissemination Branch, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 245, Arlington, VA 22230.

The National Science Foundation has TDD (Telephonic Device for the Deaf) capability, which enables individuals with hearing impairment to communicate with the Foundation about NSF programs, employment, or general information. To access NSF TDD, dial (703) 306-0090; for FIRS, 1-800-877-8339.