

GMSE FAQs

Q: What is the Graduate Student Measurement Science and Engineering (GMSE) Fellowship Program?

A: The NIST Graduate Student Measurement Science and Engineering (GMSE) fellowship program provides doctoral-level graduate students with opportunities and financial assistance to obtain laboratory experience within the NIST laboratories in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines related to NIST measurement science and engineering research. The program provides full scholarships for graduate school tuition, and allows the students to participate in NIST research during internship periods. The program is administered through a grant with the Graduate Fellowships for STEM Diversity (GFSD). This program is funded through a five-year cooperative agreement, as NIST will be substantially involved in its implementation. See the Federal Grant Cooperative Agreement Act, 31 USC Sec. 6305, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) implementing guidance. NIST shall collaborate with the awardee of the cooperative agreement on the scope of work consistent with the OMB guidance.

Q: Why should a NIST researcher engage with a GMSE researcher?

A: Top students from various academic departments apply for GMSE researcher appointments. In return, NIST researchers have access to graduate students who bring new ideas and experiences that can strengthen the agency's research programs.

Q: Where do interested students apply?

A: Applications are submitted through the portal found on the GFSD website (<https://stemfellowships.org/>)

Q: What are the categories of researchers that can be brought on through GMSE?

A: Graduate Students (currently doctoral students and expanding to master's students beginning June 2021).

Q: Is there a citizenship requirement?

A: GMSE is open to U.S. citizens only.

Q: Who can request a GMSE researcher?

A: A request should come from a NIST researcher.

Q: Who pays the GMSE researcher?

A: GMSE researchers are paid by the affiliated GFSD University through a cooperative agreement received from NIST.

Q: What financial assistance is available for a GMSE researcher?

A: All GMSE researchers are eligible to receive financial assistance which includes a stipend. The base stipend for GMSE researchers is \$20,000 year plus an additional \$3,000/month spent during the internship period. GMSE researchers also are eligible to receive \$1000 for travel needs. Stipend amounts may be adjusted based on the time length of the internship portion.

Q: Does GMSE pay for tuition?

A: GMSE covers tuition for graduate students enrolled at a participating university affiliated with the GFSD consortium during the time of appointment.

Q: Is a GMSE researcher a NIST employee?

A: No. GMSE researchers conducting research at a NIST laboratory are guest researchers and are required to sign a Guest Researcher Agreement.

Q: Who is the GMSE researcher's employer?

A: GMSE researchers are employed by their respective universities that they are enrolled in. Funds are dispersed through the consortium agreement established with GFSD.

Q: Contact info for questions?

A: Send an e-mail to gmse@nist.gov.