AGENCY: National Science Foundation

PROGRAM: National Science Foundation Research Traineeship (NRT). The solicitation can be found at: NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) Program

OBJECTIVES: The NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) program is designed to encourage the development of bold, new, potentially transformative, and scalable models for STEM graduate training that ensure that graduate students develop the skills, knowledge, and competencies needed to pursue a range of STEM careers. The NRT program initially has one priority research theme - Data-Enabled Science and Engineering (DESE); in addition, proposals are encouraged on any other crosscutting, interdisciplinary theme. In either case, proposals should identify the alignment of project research themes with national research priorities and the need for innovative approaches to train graduate students in those areas. The key factors of a NRT are.

1. Development of innovative and potentially transformative approaches to STEM graduate education, informed by evidence.
2. Extension of individual NRT program elements to non-NRT trainees to benefit a larger population of STEM graduate students across an institution.
3. Dissemination of outcomes and gained insights from NRT training approaches.
4. Facilitation and advancement of potentially transformative interdisciplinary research in areas of high priority to the nation.
5. Comprehensive training of STEM graduate students, including the development of technical and professional skills for both research and research-related careers within and outside academia.
6. Evidence-based strategies to broaden participation of students from diverse backgrounds.
7. Robust formative assessment that is central to the traineeship and routinely informs and improves practice.

The Innovations in Graduate Education (IGE) Track is dedicated solely to piloting, testing, and evaluating novel, innovative, and potentially transformative approaches to graduate education, both disciplinary and interdisciplinary, to generate the knowledge required for their customization, implementation, and broader adoption.

ELIGIBILITY RESTRICTIONS: Each institution may submit up to two Traineeship Track and one for the Innovations in Graduate Education Track proposals. If an institution submits only one Traineeship proposal, it can be in either DESE or another theme. If an institution submits two proposals, at least one must be in DESE. In any case, the traineeship theme(s) should be interdisciplinary.
**FUNDING INFORMATION:** NRT Awards are expected to be up to five years in duration with a budget of up to $3,000,000. The budget request must be consistent with the scope of the proposed NRT project, including program development and number of supported trainees.

**INTERNAL REVIEW PROCESS:** The NSF letter of intent deadline is March 25, 2015. The full proposal deadline is May 6, 2015. Due to the limited number of applications, if you or your colleagues are interested in applying, please submit an internal letter of intent to Dr. Kenneth Tramposch at ovpr.limitedsubmission@research.buffalo.edu by March 2, 2015. The letter of intent should include a brief summary of the vision and goals of the proposed NRT that includes a description of the interdisciplinary theme, the main training elements and how the program will extend training benefits beyond just the NRT trainees to the greater population of STEM graduate trainees on campus (3 pages maximum) and a NSF-style biographical sketches for the PI and Co-PI’s.