Students, Teachers, And Resources in the Sciences (STARS)
A USF/NSF GK-12 Fellows Project.

FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

The STARS Research Fellowship is designed to engage graduate and senior level undergraduate students in the challenge of infusing engineering and science principles in such cutting edge areas as nanotechnology, optics, and advanced manufacturing into the elementary school curriculum (Grades 3-5). Graduate and undergraduate students from diverse ethnic backgrounds will be selected as Fellows. The FELLOWS will be involved in developing curriculum materials (lesson plans), assist in training the teachers with the scientific basics required for the lesson plans, and serve as the teachers aid in delivering the lesson plans in the classrooms. Fellows will undergo training that focuses on pedagogy and the development of communication skills.

Project STARS has close partnerships with the School District science and mathematics coordinators as well as school Principals and teachers. The STARS partnership pool involves six area elementary schools, three of which predominantly serve minority students. The ongoing project activities are focused on developing and implementing a plan that would make the Fellows valuable resources to the teachers in the classrooms. This project provides the opportunity for individuals of demonstrated ability to engage in a program of study leading to the Bachelors, Masters and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in engineering, math, and the physical & biological sciences.

The STARS Research Fellowship will be awarded to individuals who have demonstrated superior scholarship and show promise for future achievement as scholars, researchers, and educators. In addition, Fellows will be expected to show initiative, drive, enthusiasm, and willingness to work in a team environment and with diverse elementary or secondary school student populations.

ELIGIBILITY

Citizenship and Ethnicity: The STARS Fellowships will be offered on a competitive basis to individuals who are citizens and permanent resident of the United States. Members of all ethnic groups are invited to apply. Minority and women applicants are especially encouraged to apply.

Fields of Study: STARS Research Fellowships are available to individuals seeking degrees in engineering and the physical and biological sciences (Math, Biology, Physics, Chemistry) at the University of South Florida.

Prior Degrees: Individuals holding a Doctoral degree in any field are not eligible to apply.

STIPENDS AND ALLOWANCES

Graduate Students: The STARS Fellowship will provide an annual stipend of $21,500 for up to three (3) calendar years. In addition, the Fellowship will pay in-state and out-of-state tuition for up to 18 graduate credits hours per academic year.

Undergraduate Students: The STARS Fellowship will provide an annual stipend of $10,000 for up to 3 years, broken down as follows: Fall Semester $2500, Spring Semester $2500, and $5000 during the summer.
EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF FELLOWS

The Fellowship Committee will evaluate the applicants' qualifications and make final selections for the award. Fellows will be selected on the basis of scholastic achievement and ability as evidenced by academic records, statement of purpose, and letters of recommendation. In addition, candidates may be required to participate in a personal/telephone interview.

CONDITIONS OF AWARDS

STARS Fellows are required to enroll full-time in an applicable undergraduate or graduate program at USF. After an award is made, a major change in the plan of study requires prior approval by the STARS Fellowship Committee. Graduate Fellowship recipients are not permitted to accept additional employment or receive funding from any other sources while they are STARS Fellows without the permission of the STARS Fellowship Committee.

Each STARS’ Fellow will be required to submit an interim progress report, due midway through the each Fellowship year, and an annual progress report, due at the end of each Fellowship year using a format specified by the STARS Fellowship Committee for the assessment of Fellows. Annual renewal and continuation of Fellowship support is contingent upon satisfactory academic performance, satisfactory progress toward the appropriate degree, and adherence to the terms of the award.

Students are required to establish in-state residency by the end of the first year. If in-state residency is not established, the student will be responsible for paying the out-of-state portion of their tuition fees.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The University of South Florida administers the STARS Fellowship Program through the College of Engineering and Institute on Black Life. Completed applications, requests for information, and inquiries concerning all aspects of the STARS program and award administration should be directed to:

USF/NSF STARS Fellows Program
C/o Institute on Black Life
The University of South Florida
4202 E. Fowler Avenue, SVC 1087
Tampa, FL 33620-6911
Phone: (813) 974-4727
Fax: (813) 974-5042
Email: ibl@ibl.usf.edu
ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Founded in 1956 as the first U.S. University to be created wholly in the 20th century, the University of South Florida is now the largest metropolitan university in the Southeastern United States, with a student body of nearly 35,500 spread across four campuses.

But USF is much more than just a large, state-assisted institution. Its growing reputation as a dynamic research university is spreading around the country, attracting more and more of the nation's best and brightest scholars to the Tampa Bay Area.

In the most recently completed fiscal year, USF faculty researchers undertook sponsored-research projects totaling more than $161 million, the second-largest grants-and-contracts budget at any of Florida's 10 public universities. That record sum is further evidence of the scientific strength of the university, which was designated a "Research I" institution by the Florida Board of Regents in 1998. And that research is taking place across an astonishing array of disciplines, from Marine Sciences to Teacher Education to the Neurology. The beneficiaries are not only the people of the Tampa Bay Area and Florida, but the students of USF, who study under faculty working on the leading edge of discovery in their individual fields of inquiry.

Those students have access to 206 undergraduate, masters, specialist and doctoral programs, including the M.D. USF's entering freshmen this year boasted an average grade-point average of nearly 3.5 and an SAT score of roughly 1,100. And USF's overall student body is increasingly diverse: More than 26 percent of the student population is now African American, Hispanic, Asian American, Native American or of foreign nationality. The rich, multicultural atmosphere of the university is evident not only on the main Tampa campus, but at its branches in St. Petersburg, Sarasota/Manatee, New College, and Lakeland, as well as its bustling new centers in downtown Tampa, New Port Richey and North Pinellas County.

Located in vibrant Tampa Bay, one of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas of the nation, USF has formed vital partnerships with business leaders and organizations throughout the region, and contributes to the well being of its immediate urban neighborhoods through networks of social research and service projects.

One of the largest employers in the Tampa Bay Area with more than 9,000 full- and part-time staff members, USF has an operating budget approaching $850 million and an economic impact on the area well in excess of $2 billion annually. The USF service area includes roughly one-third of Florida's 15 million residents.

The University of South Florida is a comprehensive metropolitan research university: Comprehensive in its student body, its faculty, its service to surrounding communities, and particularly in the diversity and range of its academic programs. Prospective USF graduate students have a choice of two (2) specialist programs, 80 master's programs, and 23 doctoral programs.

Higher education has entered an era in which the traditional role of the university is expanding to include students with a variety of goals and objectives and to provide more diverse services to the communities that support them. Many colleges and universities across the country are just beginning to embrace this shift toward a more comprehensive mission. USF, however, was founded in 1956 with precisely this expanded sense of purpose in mind. In a remarkably short time, it has become an intellectual and cultural force of international standing.
A USF/NSF GK-12 Fellows Project
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please read the entire application and descriptive information before completing the application. Review the eligibility requirements and be sure that you meet them before you apply. Applications from ineligible persons will not be considered, nor will exemptions from these requirements be granted.

REQUIREMENT

- All applicants must have a 3.0/4 overall GPA or better. Graduate applicants must have a minimum GRE score of 1000 (combined V&Q).

Please note the list of materials required for evaluation. They include:

- Fellowship application
- Official GRE test scores for Graduate applicants
- An official copy of all undergraduate and graduate transcripts
- Three (3) completed evaluation and recommendation forms
- A carefully worded one-page statement of purpose and career plans
- Curriculum vitae (Resume) reflecting previous education, experiences and current research interests.

All responses should be typewritten and replies limited to the space provided, except where essential to answer a question fully or where an explanation on a separate sheet is specifically requested. Answer all questions fully and accurately, sign and date the application in the space provided.

Candidates short-listed based on their applications and recommendations may be asked to participate in a personal/telephone interview.

For consideration in the Fellowship competition, all applications and supporting material must be postmarked no later than December 15th. Applicants will be notified on or before January 1st of the disposition of their applications. In fairness to all applicants, deadline exceptions cannot be granted. An application will not be evaluated unless complete. Failure to follow these instructions will result in disqualification.

Mail all application materials to:

USF/NSF STARS Fellows Program  
C/o Institute on Black Life  
University of South Florida  
4202 E. Fowler Avenue SVC 1087  
Tampa, FL 33620-6911
APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please follow the instructions carefully and adhere to deadlines as indicated. Applications and supporting materials postmarked after the deadline will not be considered.

1. Register and take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Request that your scores be mailed to the Institute on Black Life at the University of South Florida.

2. Request official transcripts from each institution you have attended (both undergraduate and graduate). Request that the Registrar's Office forward your transcripts directly to the Institute on Black Life. It normally takes three weeks or more for transcript requests to be processed. Please allow ample time to complete this step. Applications are not processed for Fellowship consideration without official transcripts from all institutions attended.

3. Complete all forms contained in this packet. Do not send a resume or vita in lieu of filling in all information requested in this application. You may wish to use the following checklist as a guide for completing all steps in the application process:

- Complete the two page STARS Fellowship Application
- If graduate, have GRE scores mailed directly to the Fellows Program Committee c/o the Institute on Black Life.
- Request a transcript from each institution that you have attended in the past.
- Request that three (3) individuals who can speak to your academic potential complete the “STARS Confidential Recommendation Form.”
- Complete the “STARS Statement of Purpose and Career Plans Form.”
- Complete a curriculum vita reflecting previous education, experience and current research interests.
- Mail your completed application to USF/NSF STARS Fellows Program, c/o The Institute on Black Life, University of South Florida, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., SVC 1087, Tampa, FL 33620-6911, by the December 15 deadline.

NOTICE OF AWARDS: Recipients and alternate recipients of the STARS Fellowship will be notified by mail after January 1st.
STARS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
APPLICATION

1. Name ____________________________  (Last)    (First)    (Middle)

2. Social Security Number  ___________  Date of Birth  _______________  Age ______

3. Present address ________________________________________________

4. Home address (If different from above) __________________________________

5. Work Address ________________________________________________

6. Home phone  ______________________  Work phone  ______________
            Current Until  ______________________  Current Until  ______________

7. Place of birth (city, state, nation) __________________________________

8. State of legal residency ___________________________________________(See page 6 for required residency affidavit)

NOTE: Title VI of the U.S. Civil Rights Act requires Items 9 and 10.

9. Sex:
   9 Female
   9 Male

10. Ethnic Origin (check one)
    9 Caucasian (not Hispanic)  9 Hispanic  9 Asian or Pacific Islander
    9 African-American  9 American Indian  9 Other (specify) ______________

11. Former name(s), if any, which may appear on transcripts ____________________________

12. Current Status at the University?  9 Undergrad  9 Graduate
    If undergrad, specify classification ____________________________

13. Undergraduate institution ____________________________________________

14. Degree received ___________________  Year completed ____________________

15. Graduate institution ________________________________________________

16. Degree received ___________________  Year completed ____________________

17. Grade point average (indicate if scale is other than A = 4.0)
    Undergraduate _______________  Graduate _______________
18. Degree program in which you wish to study ________________________________

19. Field of interest within the discipline ______________________________________

20. Number of courses completed in your program ______________________________

21. Have you previously applied for admission to post baccalaureate study at the University of South Florida?
   9 Yes    9 No
   If yes, when? _____________________________________________________________

22. List the date on which you took, or plan to take, the GRE. _______________________

23. Indicate scores received, if known. (Note that score reports must be verified by submission of score reports from the testing agency).
   Graduate Record Examination (GRE): Date____________ V _______ Q______ AA _______ ADV _______

24. List below in chronological order every college or university you have attended as an undergraduate or graduate student.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF SCHOOL AND LOCATION</th>
<th>DATES OF ATTENDANCE</th>
<th>LIST ALL DEGREES EXPECTED OR RECEIVED WITH DATES</th>
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25. List three (3) persons who are not related to you, and who have direct knowledge of your qualifications and character. At least two of the persons listed below should be faculty members in your major academic field. Please have the Personal Evaluation and Recommendation forms included in this application completed by each of the persons listed below.

1. ________________________________________________________________

2. ________________________________________________________________

3. ________________________________________________________________

26. Fill out items A, B and C below.

   A. Have you been found by any school authorities or by any court to have disrupted or interfered with the orderly conduct, processes, functions or programs of any educational institution?
      9 Yes    9 No
B. Are you currently charged or have you been convicted or found guilty (even if adjudication withheld) of violating any federal or state law or municipal ordinance other than minor offenses involving a fine of $25 or less?

9 Yes  9 No

C. If you answered yes to either of the above questions, give details on a separate sheet and attach to this application.

27. Please read and fill out the residency affidavit included in your packet. If you are NOT claiming Florida residency you must nevertheless sign the affidavit in the appropriate space.

For consideration in the Fellowship competition, applications must be postmarked no later than January 15. In fairness to all applicants, deadline exceptions CANNOT be granted, and incomplete applications WILL NOT be considered.

I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsification of information will be sufficient grounds for disqualification of application, or cancellation of financial award.

Applicant's Signature________________________________________ Date _____________________
Information for Residency Classification

If you are claiming Florida residency for tuition purposes, please fill out this form completely. A Florida resident for tuition purposes is a person who has (or whose parent or legal guardian has) established and maintained legal residency in Florida for at least twelve months. You must be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident alien (hold a green card), or legal alien granted indefinite stay by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Other persons not meeting the twelve-month legal residence requirement may be classified as Florida residents for tuition purposes only if they fall within one of the limited special categories authorized by the Florida Board of Regents.

Non-Florida Residents

I understand that I do not qualify as a Florida resident for tuition purposes for the term for which this application is submitted and that if I should qualify for some future term, it will be necessary for me to file the required documentation prior to the beginning of the term to be considered for Florida residency classification.

Signature (in ink): _______________________________ Date: _______________________________

Florida Residents

This section must be completed in full if you claim Florida residency for tuition purposes.

CHECK ONE:

_____ I am an Independent person (not claimed as a dependent on parent/ legal guardian tax return).

_____ I am a dependent person (claimed on parent/ legal guardian tax return).

_____ I am a dependent person who has resided for five years with an adult relative other than my parent or legal guardian (proof will be required).

_____ I am married to a person who has maintained legal residence in Florida for at least 12 months. (Required: Copy of marriage certificate)

_____ I was previously enrolled at a Florida state Institution and classified as a Florida resident for tuition purposes. I abandoned my Florida domicile less than 12 months ago.

_____ I am a member of the armed services of the United States and I am stationed in Florida on active military duty pursuant to military orders, or whose home of record is Florida, or I am a member's spouse or dependent child. (Required: Copy of military orders or DD2058 showing home of record)

_____ I am a full-time Instructional or administrative employee employed by a Florida public school, community college, or institution of higher education, or I am the employee's spouse or dependent child. (Required: Copy of employment verification)

_____ I am a qualified beneficiary under the terms of the Florida Prepaid College Program. (Required: Proof of participation)

_____ I am living on the Isthmus of Panama and have completed 12 consecutive months of college work at the FSU Panama Canal Branch, or I am the student's spouse or dependent child. (Required: Copy of marriage certificate or proof of dependency)

Documents supporting the establishment of legal residence must be dated, issued, or filed 12 months before the first day of classes of the term for which Florida residence classification is sought. All documentation is subject to verification.

Additional documentation other than what is required above may be requested in some cases.

Items #3 through 11 should be filled out with information pertaining to the person claiming Florida residency (Item #3).

Please print:

1. Name of Student: _______________________________ 2. Student's Social Security Number. ______/_____/______
5. Claimant's permanent legal address:______________________________

Street/P.O. Box Apt. Number City State Zip Code

7. Date claimant began establishing legal Florida residence and domicile: ______/_____/______

8. Claimant's voter registration: State: ______ Number: _______ Issue Date: ______/_____/______

9. Claimant's driver's license: State: ______ Number: _______ Issue Date: ______/_____/______

10. Claimant's vehicle registration: State: ______ Tag Number: _______ Issue Date: ______/_____/______

11. Non-U.S. Citizen only: Claimant's Resident Alien Number: __________________________ Issue Date: ______/_____/______

(A copy of both sides of claimant's card is required.)

I do hereby swear or affirm that the above named student meets all requirements indicated in the checked category above for classification as a Florida resident for tuition purposes. I understand that a false statement in this affidavit will subject me to the penalties for making a false statement pursuant to 240.1201, Florida Statutes, and to 6A-10.044 (F.A.C.).

Signature of person claiming Florida residency (as listed in item #3 above) _______________________________ Date: _______________________________
Use the space below to provide a **300-500 word typed statement** regarding your current goals and future plans for your professional career. Also explain your reasons for selecting your major field of graduate study. If the space below is not sufficient to complete your statement, please continue on a separate sheet and staple the two pages together. Be sure to put your name on both sheets.
TO THE APPLICANT:

Deliver this form directly to a person who is well acquainted with your academic record and who can speak explicitly about your academic achievements and potential. You should supply this person with a stamped envelope addressed to: The Institute on Black Life, University of South Florida, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., SVC 1087, Tampa, FL 33620-6912.

Please read the following statement carefully. Signing is optional.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, opens many student records, including letters of recommendation, for the student's inspection. The law also permits a student to sign a waiver relinquishing his/her right to inspect letters of recommendation. You are not required to sign a waiver, either for admission or for the Fellowship.

I hereby waive my right of access to this recommendation and any appropriate attachments that have been written by ____________________________ (Name of recommender). This waiver is effective insofar as the recommendation is used solely for the purpose of admission or award of Fellowship or other financial aid, if applicable.

Name ____________________________ Date ____________________________ Signature ____________________________

(Please print)

TO THE REFEREE:

The person named above is applying for a STARS Research Fellowship at the University of South Florida. These Fellowships are designed to engage graduate and senior level undergraduate students in the challenge of infusing engineering and science principles in such cutting edge areas as nanotechnology, optics, and advanced manufacturing into the elementary school environment. The partnerships involve five area elementary schools, three of which predominantly serve minority students.

Please complete the following items:

1. I have known the applicant for ______ years as his/her ____________________________ (specify relationship). I have known him/her ________ well or ________ only slightly.

2. Do you believe this candidate will be successful in the degree program designated above?
3. Summary Evaluation: Over-all academic ability and promise for research. Comparing the applicant with a representative group of students in the same field who have had approximately the same amount of experience and training, how do you rate him/her in GENERAL ALL-AROUND ACADEMIC ABILITY AND PROMISE FOR RESEARCH?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Below Average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Somewhat Above Average</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Unusual</th>
<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>Truly Exceptional</th>
<th>Inadequate Opportunity to Observe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lowest 40%</td>
<td>Middle 20%</td>
<td>Next 15%</td>
<td>Next Highest 15%</td>
<td>Highest 10%</td>
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<td>Highest 10%</td>
<td>Highest 10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On a separate sheet of letterhead stationery, please write your candid assessment of the applicant’s promise as a graduate student in a doctoral program.

Name (please print) ___________________________________________ Date ___________________

Title/position ___________________________________ Institution ____________________________________________

Address __________________________________ City ______________________ St ________ Zip _______

Signature __________________________________________________________

**DEADLINE:**

Please return this form **no later than December 15** to:

USF/NSF STARS Fellows Program
C/o Institute on Black Life
University Of South Florida
4202 E. Fowler Avenue, SVC 1087
Tampa, Florida 33620-6911