

NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant

Emily Moriarty Lemmon

Department of Biological Science

Purpose of NSF DDIG

- This is a Dissertation Improvement Grant, *NOT*
 - A grant to fund a new (or second) dissertation or
 - A grant to fund work you have already done
- The goal of this program is to give you the freedom and funds to do better science and improve your career prospects, e.g.,
 - Extend your current research in a novel direction
 - Conduct studies independent from advisor's research program

Why Apply?

- Prestige
 - Opens doors for more funding and job opportunities
- Improves quality of dissertation
 - Can take work in new research directions
- Freedom
 - Not tied to advisor's research so can develop a more independent research program
- Financial Benefits
 - Up to \$13,000 for research activities (over 2yrs)

Eligibility

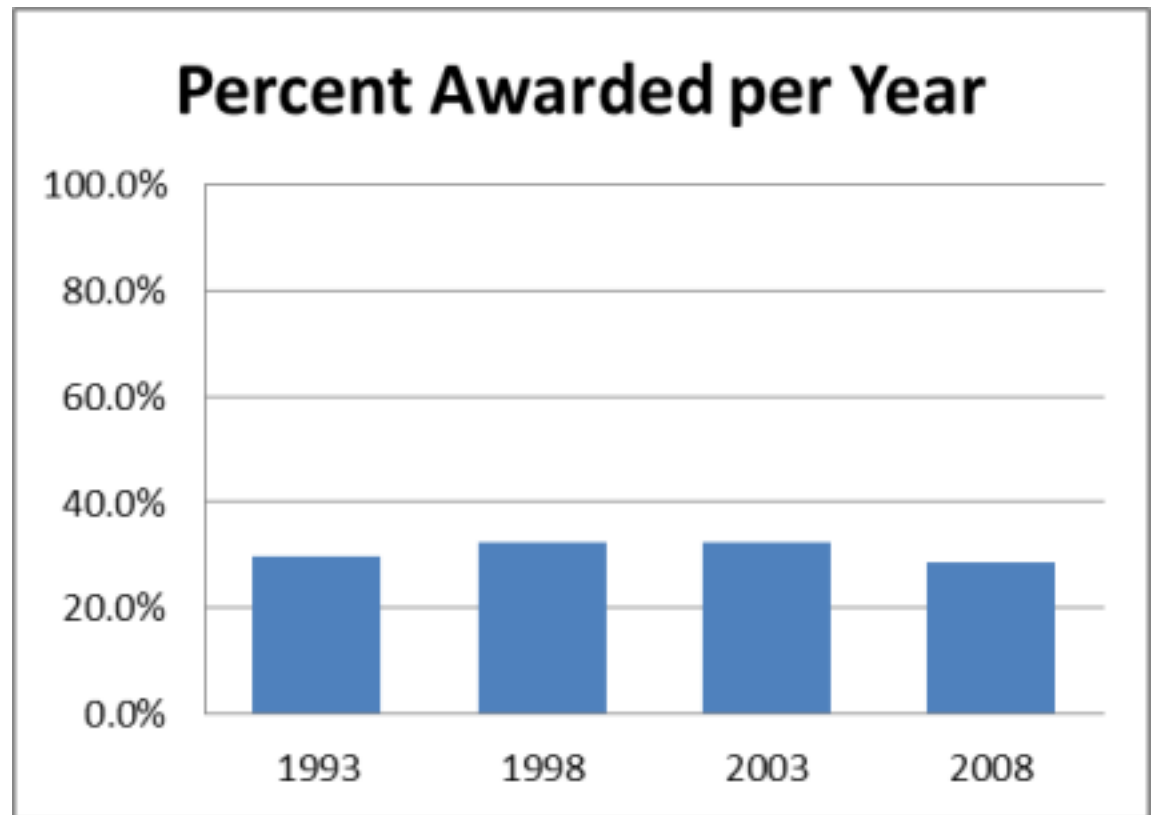
- Student advanced to candidacy for Ph.D. (still a Ph.D. student)
- Enrolled at U.S. institution *but not need to be a U.S. citizen*
- Advisor (as PI) submits proposal with you via NSF's FastLane website
- Deadlines during Fall semester (see your program's website)
- No pre-proposal or oral interview to apply

Fields Funded by DDIGs

- Archaeology
- Biology
- Cultural Anthropology
- Biological Anthropology
- Geography and Spatial Sciences
- Linguistics
- Political Science
- Science of Science and Innovation Policy
- Sociology
- Economics
- Decision, Risk, and Management Sciences
- Science Technology, and Society
- Law and Social Sciences
- Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics
- others

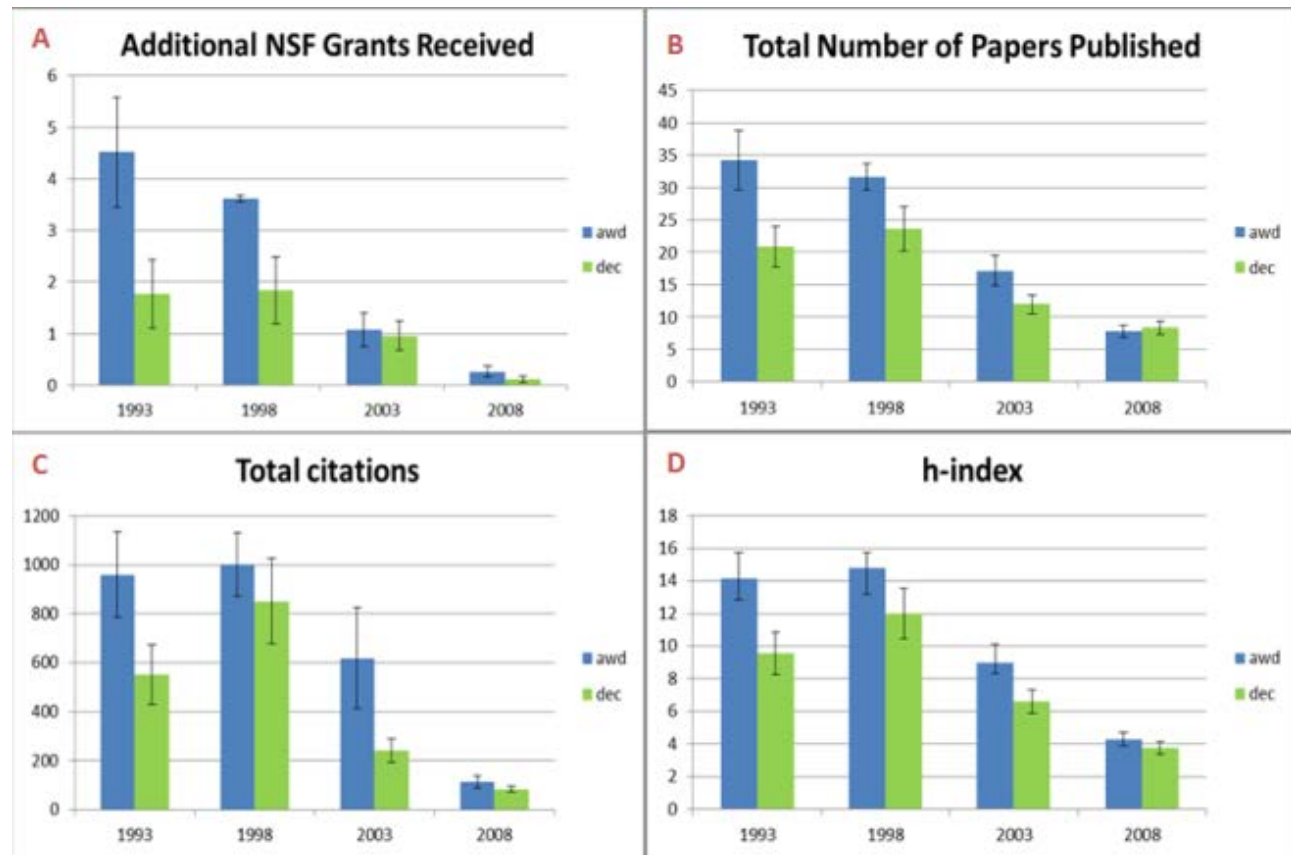
What are my chances of receiving this award if I apply?

About **1 of 3** applicants are funded!



Does a DDIG correlate with a more successful research career?

Yes, it appears so



<https://nsfdeb.wordpress.com/2014/07/08/assessing-the-value-of-the-doctoral-dissertation-improvement-grant-2/>

Components of Application

- Project Summary (1 page)
- Project Description (8 pages--but check program solicitation)
 - Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts
- References Cited
- Biographical Sketches
- Budget and Justification
- Current and Pending Support
- Facilities, Equipment, Other Resources
- Data Management Plan
- Statement of Improvement (Biology)

Merit Review Criteria

(see program solicitation)

- Intellectual Merit
 - What is the potential of the project to advance knowledge?
- Broader Impacts
 - What is the potential of the project to benefit society and contribute to achievement of specific, desired society outcomes?

Who Reviews?

- 3 (relative specialists) and (potential) advocates)
- Many (10 or more) others reading
 - On topics outside core expertise
 - At the last minute
 - 25+ proposals
- Proposals must be
 - Catchy
 - Clear
 - Concise
 - Aimed at a fairly broad audience but scientifically sound



Project Description

- Must hook reader from the beginning
 - Exciting, broad relevance, clear conceptual framework, significant contribution
- Lay out clear, testable questions and hypotheses
 - In context of previous work
 - With appropriate detailed methods proposed
 - And convincing arguments of feasibility and significance of the work
- The different goals of project should flow but also “stand alone”

Example Outline of Project Description

- Introduction (~1pg)
- Project Proposal (~7pg)
 - Goal 1
 - *Questions*
 - *Justification and Background* with Figures
 - *Methods* (data collection and data analysis)
 - *Preliminary Data*
 - *Significance*
 - Goal 2 and Goal 3 . . . (same structure)
 - Feasibility
 - Conclusion
 - Project Schedule (timeline for each goal)

Writing the Proposal

- Seek sample proposals (me, online, through NSF website abstracts, your advisor, etc.)
- Build on current research and use your preliminary data! (figures and tables good)
- Get help from advisor, committee members, and previous awardees
- Utilize multiple reviewers and revise proposal many times
- Start early (and expect Fastlane to give trouble)
- Upload misc. documents early so can focus on multiple revisions of project description

NSF DDIG (Biology)

The screenshot shows the NSF website for the Division of Environmental Biology. The main heading is "Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants in the Directorate for Biological Sciences (DDIG)". A red circle highlights the "PROGRAM GUIDELINES" section, which includes a link to "Solicitation 13-568". The left sidebar contains navigation links for funding, proposals, and awards. The top navigation bar includes "HOME", "FUNDING", "AWARDS", "DISCOVERIES", "NEWS", "PUBLICATIONS", "STATISTICS", "ABOUT NSF", and "FASTLANE".

NSF National Science Foundation
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

QUICK LINKS

SEARCH

HOME FUNDING AWARDS DISCOVERIES NEWS PUBLICATIONS STATISTICS ABOUT NSF FASTLANE

Funding

Find Funding

A-Z Index of Funding Opportunities

Recent Funding Opportunities

Upcoming Due Dates

Advanced Funding Search

Interdisciplinary Research

How to Prepare Your Proposal

About Funding

Proposals and Awards

Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide

Introduction

Proposal Preparation and Submission

- Grant Proposal Guide
- Grants.gov Application Guide

Award and Administration

- Award and Administration Guide

Award Conditions

Merit Review

NSF Outreach

Policy Office

Related

GRANTS.GOV™

Division of Environmental Biology

Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants in the Directorate for Biological Sciences (DDIG)

DDIG Update:

Please note that only proposals whose focus falls within the scope of (1) the scientific area of the Behavioral Systems Cluster of IOS or (2) any scientific area in the Division of Environmental Biology (DEB) will be eligible.

CONTACTS

Name	Email	Phone	Room
DEB Program Officer	ddig-deb@nsf.gov	(703) 292-8480	
IOS Program Officer	ddig-ios@nsf.gov	(703) 292-8423	

Students doing international research, having a formal affiliation with a foreign research institution, may contact the appropriate program in NSF's [Office of International and Integrative Activities](#).

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Solicitation [13-568](#)

Important Information for Proposers

A revised version of the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)* (NSF 16-1), is effective for proposals submitted, or due, on or after January 25, 2016. Please be advised that, depending on the specified due date, the guidelines contained in NSF 16-1 may apply to proposals submitted in response to this funding opportunity.

DUE DATES

Full Proposal Deadline Date: October 13, 2016
Second Thursday in October, Annually Thereafter

SYNOPSIS

The National Science Foundation awards Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants in selected areas of the biological sciences. Proposals must fall within the scope of any of the clusters in the Division of Environmental Biology (DEB) or the Behavioral Systems Cluster in the Division of Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS). These grants provide partial support of doctoral dissertation research for improvement beyond the already existing project. Allowed are costs for doctoral candidates to participate in scientific meetings, to conduct research in specialized facilities or field settings, and to expand an existing body of dissertation research.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

This program provides educational opportunities for Graduate Students, Individuals

Program Solicitation

Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants in the Directorate for Biological Sciences (DDIG)

PROGRAM SOLICITATION NSF 13-568

REPLACES DOCUMENT(S): NSF 12-590



National Science Foundation

Directorate for Biological Sciences
Division of Environmental Biology
Division of Integrative Organismal Systems

Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time):

October 10, 2013

Second Thursday in October, Annually Thereafter

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REVISION NOTES

Any proposal submitted in response to this solicitation should be submitted in accordance with the revised NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) (NSF 15-1), which is effective for proposals submitted, or due, on or after December 26, 2014. The PAPPG is consistent with, and, implements the new Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) (2 CFR § 200).

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

General Information

Program Title:

Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants in the Directorate for Biological Sciences (DDIG)

Synopsis of Program:

The National Science Foundation awards Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants in selected areas of the biological sciences. Proposals must fall within the scope of any of the clusters in the Division of Environmental Biology (DEB) or the Behavioral Systems Cluster in the Division of Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS). These grants provide partial support of doctoral dissertation research for improvement beyond the already existing project. Allowed are costs for doctoral candidates to participate in scientific meetings, to conduct research in specialized facilities or field settings, and to expand an existing body of dissertation research.