

Application Process

Step 1: All students must apply and be accepted to one of the following graduate programs:

- a. Biology, M.S.
- b. Chemical Engineering, M.S. or Ph.D.
- c. Chemistry, M.S.
- d. Civil and Environmental Engineering, M.S. or Ph.D.
- e. Electrical and Computer Engineering, M.S. or Ph.D.
- f. Environmental Informatics, M.S.
- g. Environmental Sciences – Agriculture, Ph.D.
- h. Environmental Sciences – Biology, Ph.D.
- i. Environmental Sciences – Chemistry, Ph.D.
- j. Environmental Sciences – Geology, Ph.D.
- k. Environmental Sciences – Integrated Research, Ph.D.
- l. Mechanical Engineering, M.S. or Ph.D.

Step 2: To participate in the NSF NRT Engendering the Spirit of Gadugi at the FEW Nexus program, students must submit an application packet to the Program Coordinator (sbuer@tntech.edu) after being accepted to one of the graduate programs from Step 1. The application packet must include:

- Application Form
- Letter of Intent – The letter should be 1-2 pages in length and must include your intended concentration, autobiographical statement, educational and professional goals, and areas of interest for future research.
- CV/Resume
- Statement of your research interests – This is a short document that provides a brief history of your past research experience, the current state of your research, and how this relates to your interests in research at the FEW (Food-Energy-Water) Nexus. This document should be approximately 1 to 2 pages.

If chosen to participate in the program, you will need to complete the required NRT elements including but not limited to 1) a thesis/dissertation, 2) specific NRT courses, 3) workshops, 4) projects, and 5) other training activities.

Step 3: If applying for the NSF NRT fellowship, additional documentation (listed below) must be submitted with your application packet.

- An explanation of why you are eligible and applying for the NSF NRT fellowship. Refer to the eligibility factors posted under the “Eligibility” tab at <https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/nrt-nsffellowship.php>.
- Description of your collaborative learning philosophy – The collaborative learning philosophy statement articulates student beliefs about the importance of interacting with others (peers, colleagues, mentors, etc.) and how that translates to learning. This document should be approximately 1 double-spaced page in length.
- Submit three letters of recommendation for your potential success related to this program.

Please note the specific requirements from the National Science Foundation NRT program for fellowship recipients:

- ***NRT trainees must be master’s and/or doctoral STEM students in a research-based degree program that requires a thesis or dissertation.***

- **NRT stipends and support for customary costs of education (tuition and required fees) are limited to U.S. citizens, nationals and permanent residents. However, international students can participate as non-stipend-supported NRT trainees or as non-trainees.**

<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2021/nsf21536/nsf21536.htm#:~:text=NRT%20trainees%20must%20be%20master's,requires%20a%20thesis%20or%20dissertation.>