The National Physical Science Consortium is a unique partnership of industry, government and higher education. NPSC helps its partners to recruit, identify, select, and support outstanding U.S. doctoral students.

Since granting its first fellowship award to seven young scholars in 1989, the NPSC partnership has provided fellowships to more than 300 aspiring scientists and engineers. Of these, nearly half are minorities and three-quarters are women. More than 100 have received the doctorate degree.

NPSC's principal objective is to aid in increasing the number of Ph.D.s in the physical sciences and related engineering fields, emphasizing recruitment of a diverse applicant pool of women and historically underrepresented minorities. All U.S. citizens are eligible.

NPSC offers two related programs; each uses the same online application.

1. A two-phase, six-year fellowship program. Initial support is for two or three years. If progress is satisfactory and the conditions of the award are maintained, support may continue for a total of up to six years. Students typically apply while seniors in college. (Some employers may require a postdoctoral employment commitment in return for continuing support.)

2. A dissertation support program. Students apply in the year prior to the one in which they intend to start their Ph.D. dissertation research. Funding begins in the year in which the research begins and, if the conditions of the award are maintained, may continue to the Ph.D.

To learn more and to apply online, go to www.npsc.org.

Students may apply starting in late August; the process closes in early November (see www.npsc.org for exact dates). The information included on the online application is the same as that required for graduate school admission: degrees earned and expected, employment and internship history, grades (self-entered and later verified), GRE scores, references, personal statement, etc.

The Fellowship covers tuition and fees and provides a generous annual stipend. Students in the six-year program intern for two summers with their sponsor, who provides a salary and covers travel expenses. For students who receive six years of support, the total value of the Fellowship well exceeds $200,000.

Norma Hiller, Sandia National Laboratories