   - Three years of support
   - $30,000 annual stipend
   - $10,500 cost-of-education allowance
   - $1,000 one time international travel allowance

Application requirements:
   Personal Statement Essay
   Previous Research Experience Essay
   Proposed Plan of Research Essay
   3 Reference Letters
   Academic Transcripts
   GRE scores - recommended, but NOT required

Personal Statement
Important questions to ask yourself before starting the essay:
   Why are you fascinated by your research area?
   What examples of leadership skills and unique characteristics do you bring to your chosen field?
   What personal and individual strengths do you have that make you a qualified applicant?
   How will receiving the fellowship contribute to your career goals?

Previous Research Experience
Important questions to ask yourself before starting the essay:
   What are all of your applicable experiences?
   For each experience, what were the key questions, methodology, findings, and conclusions?
   Did you work in a team and/or independently?
   How did you assist in the analysis of results?

Proposed Plan of Research
Important questions to ask yourself before starting the essay:
   What issues in the scientific community are you most passionate about?
   Do you possess the technical knowledge and skills necessary for conducting this work, or will you have sufficient mentoring and training to complete the study?
   Is this plan feasible for the allotted time and institutional resources?
   How will my research contribute to the "big picture" outside the academic context?
   How can I draft a plan using the specified research proposal format?

Tips for Applying
http://www.nsfgrfp.org/applicant_resources/tips_for_applying
We surveyed recent awardees and panel reviewers to ask for their input and advice to help you prepare a high quality application. Here are their recommendations:

Top Tips from Awardees
Start early, taking significant time to compose essays, and rewrite
Demonstrate your personal motivation and excitement for research
Spend time to thoroughly research your topic
Integrate essays to create singular theme, link the content together
Keep essays clear and simple to read
Give essays to many people for review
Get input from professors or university administration
Get input from previous applicants or winners
Thoroughly address both Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts
Be sure you adequately address the Broader Impacts criterion
Be sure to include all volunteer, leadership and extracurricular activities
Highlight the significance of your research and how it will impact society
Pay close attention to language in the solicitation
Focus on getting strong recommendation letters
Mention what sets you apart from a typical applicant - be unique!

Top Tips from Reviewers
Gain research experience, especially at the undergrad level (for example, see NSF's REU program)
Become involved in leadership roles and community service
Write clear and scientifically-sound essays
Strive for scientific publications and presentations
Have a strong academic record
Be sure to demonstrate the Broader Impacts criteria well
Select strong recommenders
Link your teaching and research experiences
Ensure you display a history of accomplishments
Thoroughly address both Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts
Highlight any international experience you may have
Display your passion and motivation in the essays
Be knowledgeable of your research topic
Demonstrate the significance of your proposed work
Make sure the proposed research is realistic
Be sure to carefully read through the Application Materials and Review Criteria for the award. We encourage you to make use of the Experienced Resource Persons List to contact someone from your institution who has volunteered to give their advice about the program to you.

Two criteria

Intellectual Merit

How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?
How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project?
(If appropriate, the reviewer will comment on the quality of prior work.)
To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity?
Is there sufficient access to resources?

**Broader Impacts** – Activities and projects that:

- How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning?
- How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)?
- To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships?
- Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding?

What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

For each criterion, panelists evaluate and comment on the applicant’s strengths and areas for improvement on the rating sheet, assign an "excellent", "very good", "good", "fair" or "poor" rating for each criterion, and determine an overall point value.

**Intellectual Merit**

Panelists will consider factors including: the strength of the academic record, the proposed plan of research and whether it is potentially transformative, the description of previous research experience, references, Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) General and Subject Tests scores, and the appropriateness of the choice of institution relative to the proposed plan for graduate education and research.

**Broader Impacts**

The broader impacts criterion includes contributions that infuse learning with the excitement of discovery, and assure that the findings and methods of research are communicated in a broad context and to a large audience.

A strong application will encourage diversity, broaden opportunities, and enable the participation of all citizens—women and men, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities—in science and research.

In addition to reaching a broad audience, a strong application must demonstrate how it will enhance scientific and technical understanding, while benefiting society.

Applicants may provide characteristics of their background, including personal, professional, and educational experiences, to indicate their potential to fulfill the broader impacts criterion.

A document with a more in-depth look at Broader Impacts, published by NSF, is here.