Application Process

Step 1: All students must apply (https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/nrt-nsffellowship.php) 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. Computer Science, M.S. and Ph.D.
     f. Electrical and Computer Engineering, M.S. or Ph.D.
     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.