



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A14100054

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This investigation was initiated pursuant to an allegation that a graduate student fraudulently obtained a two-year fellowship funded by NSF by providing falsified documentation in his application.

We researched the eligibility requirements for the fellowship, reviewed the contents of the application and the relevant grant and award documents, and conducted interviews with witnesses, including the individual whose signature appeared on the letter demonstrating the student's eligibility. We determined that the graduate student had falsified portions of his fellowship application, including forging a signature and letter, in order to secure a fellowship for which he was not eligible.

This matter was accepted for criminal prosecution by the U.S. Department of Justice. The graduate student subsequently pled guilty to one count of wire fraud and was sentenced to three years of probation, 50 hours of community service, nearly \$40,000 in restitution, and a \$100 special assessment. The improperly paid fellowship funds were returned to NSF. Based on a subsequent recommendation from our office, the graduate student was debarred for five years.

Accordingly, this investigation is closed.