

Dr. _____,

I have recently graduated with a [insert type of degree] from [X University] and I am very interested in applying to the _____ doctoral program at _____.

My current research interests are in _____ with _____ applications and I am particularly curious about investigating _____. I am familiar with your research on _____, and I am currently working on writing a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship proposal related to this type of work. After reviewing your website and reading a few recent publications, I am very interested to learn more about your lab and what kind of research you are pursuing presently and plan to pursue in the future. I find it fascinating that _____. [Insert a few questions you have about their most recent publication]. I would very much appreciate the opportunity to speak with you if you are available and also have potential Ph.D. positions available in your lab starting in [insert semester you would like to start].

To give you a bit of background on me, I am originally from _____ and [insert interested fact]. I am currently [insert what you're working on and stage of your career]. [Add a few sentences about how you have come to be interested in their line of research].

During my undergraduate education, I have held research positions in [A and B types] of labs. I completed my undergraduate honors thesis on _____. [Insert something you do that is relevant or similar to what they do in their lab].

These projects have introduced me to many forms of instrumentation and had a significant impact on my decision to pursue X research. Your project(s) concerning _____ are very exciting to me and I would be grateful for the chance to discuss it (them) with you further.

I have attached my updated CV for your review. Thank you very much for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Name

Institution

Contact Info