Tips for writing a Brown Fellowship application

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READ the instructions

Advise from my parents, still applicable today

Check the website – do you fit the criteria?

Talk to people (in your school/faculty and outside)

Think about if this is the right time for you

remember that there is never a perfect time....
Make a plan

— What duties will you give up for the duration?
  — My advice is as much as possible

— Plan out how you will be relieved of these duties
  — Sound out people to take over
  — Talk to head of school (or others) for assistance

— Think about what release from these duties will allow you. How will this transform your life for this year and years to come?

— What are your goals. How will this help you get there?
Writing the application

– Write the research to your audience (out of field reviewers)

– Make clear your achievements relative to opportunity
  – State the obvious. HOW did your circumstance impact your opportunity (not just what your circumstance was/is)

– How will this fellowship help you?
  – More time to think? More time in the lab? For me it was all about time!

– Support from head of school
  – Unequivocal (and financial if possible)
Career disruption

— Be factual. What are your circumstances and how does this impact on your opportunity to progress your career?

— Don’t make it a sob story. Be objective. Show data as to how you have been affected (grant income stall/publication rate dip after time off for caring).

— Are your circumstances ongoing? How will you overcome this? How will they change over time?
Enjoy life