

Security Key is available as a multifactor authentication (MFA) security method for all users signing into Research.gov. A security key is a physical device that you can connect to your computer to add an extra layer of protection to your NSF account.

NSF does not provide users with a security key, so you must obtain one on your own to use this secure option. NSF currently supports these [FIDO2](#) compliant devices:

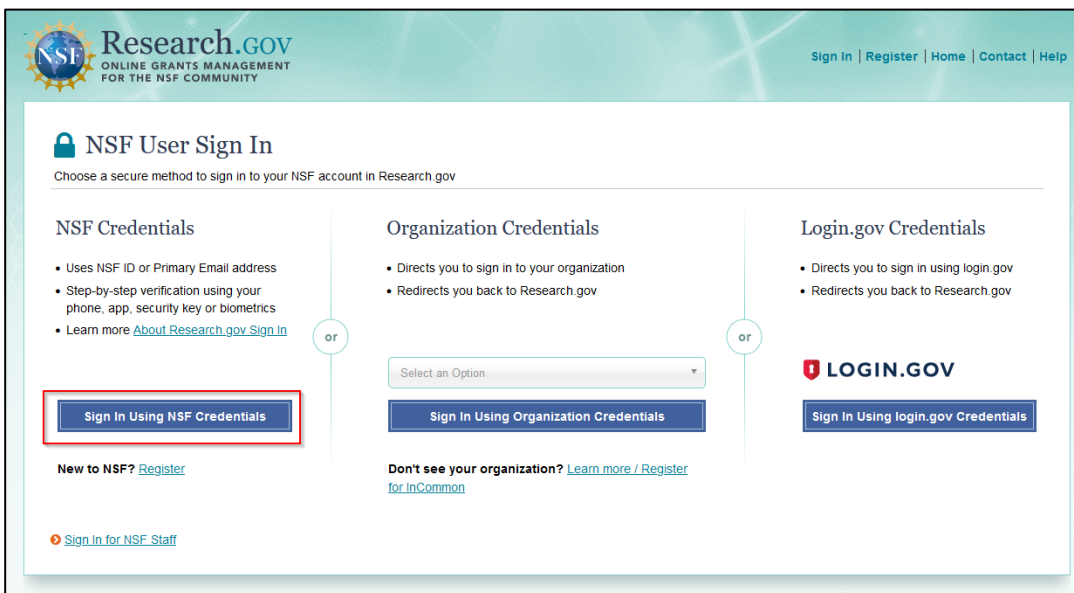
- YubiKey 5 Series
- YubiKey 5 FIPS Series

Note: A YubiKey was used for the setup steps below. Different security keys may have different setup instructions.

- [Security Key: Verify & Setup](#)
- [Security Key: Signing In](#)

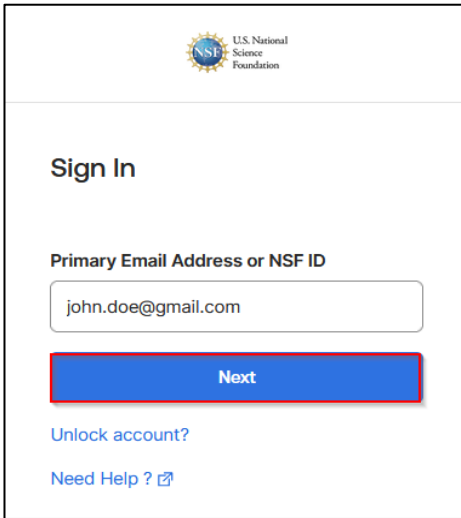
Security Key: Verify & Setup

1. Open [Research.gov](#)
2. Click **Sign In** located at the top of the screen to enter NSF account credentials.
3. Click **Sign In Using NSF Credentials**.



The screenshot shows the 'NSF User Sign In' page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Sign In | Register | Home | Contact | Help'. The main heading is 'NSF User Sign In' with a sub-heading 'Choose a secure method to sign in to your NSF account in Research.gov'. Below this, there are three columns of sign-in options, separated by 'or' indicators. The first column is 'NSF Credentials', the second is 'Organization Credentials', and the third is 'Login.gov Credentials'. Each column has a list of bullet points describing the method. Below the descriptions are three buttons: 'Sign In Using NSF Credentials' (highlighted with a red box), 'Sign In Using Organization Credentials', and 'Sign In Using login.gov Credentials'. At the bottom left, there is a link for 'New to NSF? Register' and a radio button for 'Sign In for NSF Staff'. At the bottom right, there is a link for 'Don't see your organization? Learn more / Register for InCommon'.

4. Enter your **primary email address or NSF ID** and click **Next**.
5. Enter your password and then click **Verify**.



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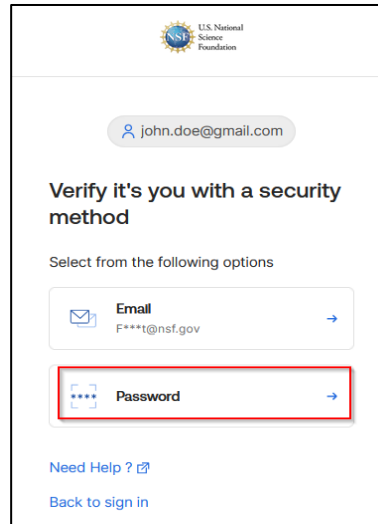
Sign In

Primary Email Address or NSF ID

john.doe@gmail.com

Next

[Unlock account?](#)
[Need Help ?](#)



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john.doe@gmail.com

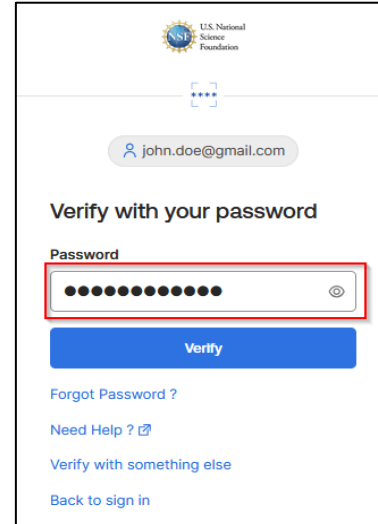
Verify it's you with a security method

Select from the following options

Email
F****@nsf.gov

Password

[Need Help ?](#)
[Back to sign in](#)



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john.doe@gmail.com

Verify with your password

Password

.....

Verify

[Forgot Password ?](#)
[Need Help ?](#)
[Verify with something else](#)
[Back to sign in](#)

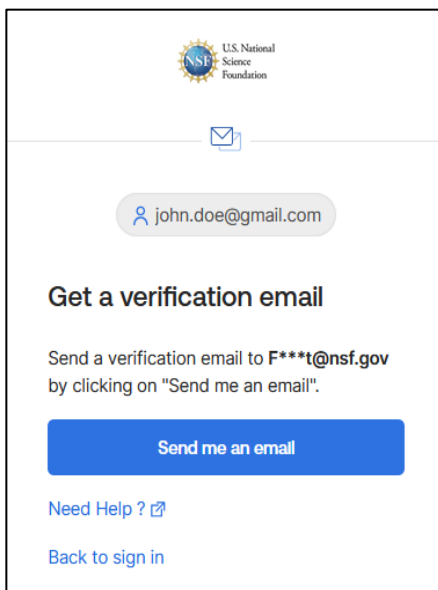
Please ensure you have access to your NSF account primary email address as you may be required to complete a validation step with a one-time passcode sent to this email.

If you are asked to verify your primary email address, please follow Steps 6-8. Otherwise, please go to Step 9.

Your email address is another form of verification used to ensure you are the account owner.

- Click **Send me an email**.
- Once you click **Send me an email**, you will receive a **one-time verification code** email from nsfextloginnoreply@nsf.gov to your primary Email address you used when you registered for you NSF account in Research.gov.

Note: If you prefer to use a code instead, you can click **Enter a verification code instead**. Enter the 6-digit code at the bottom of the Account password reset email then click **Verify**.



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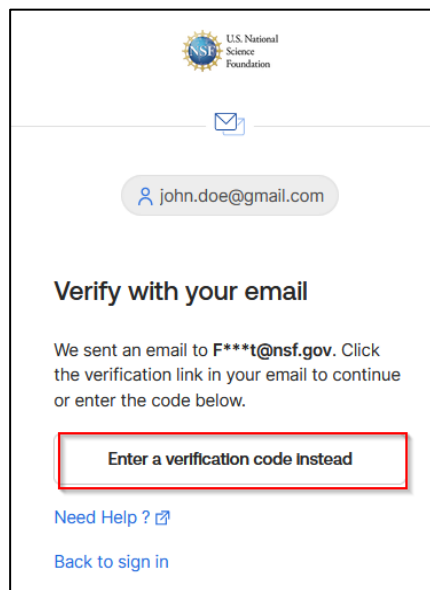
john.doe@gmail.com

Get a verification email

Send a verification email to F****@nsf.gov by clicking on "Send me an email".

Send me an email

[Need Help ?](#)
[Back to sign in](#)



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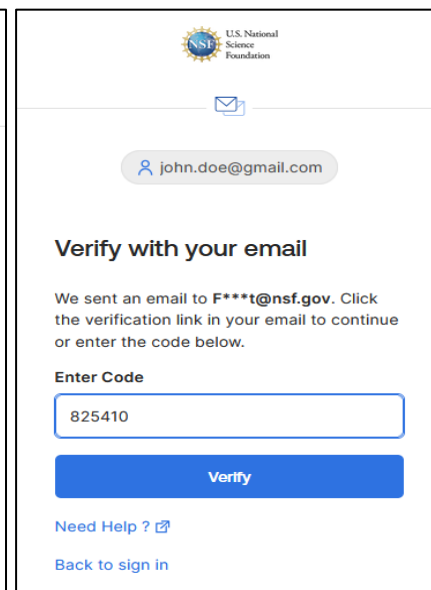
john.doe@gmail.com

Verify with your email

We sent an email to F****@nsf.gov. Click the verification link in your email to continue or enter the code below.

Enter a verification code instead

[Need Help ?](#)
[Back to sign in](#)



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john.doe@gmail.com

Verify with your email

We sent an email to F****@nsf.gov. Click the verification link in your email to continue or enter the code below.

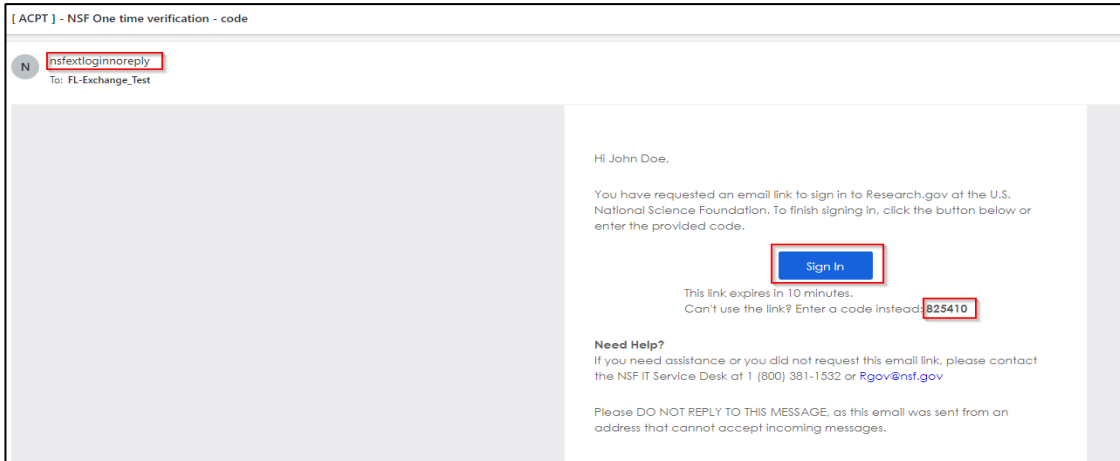
Enter Code

825410

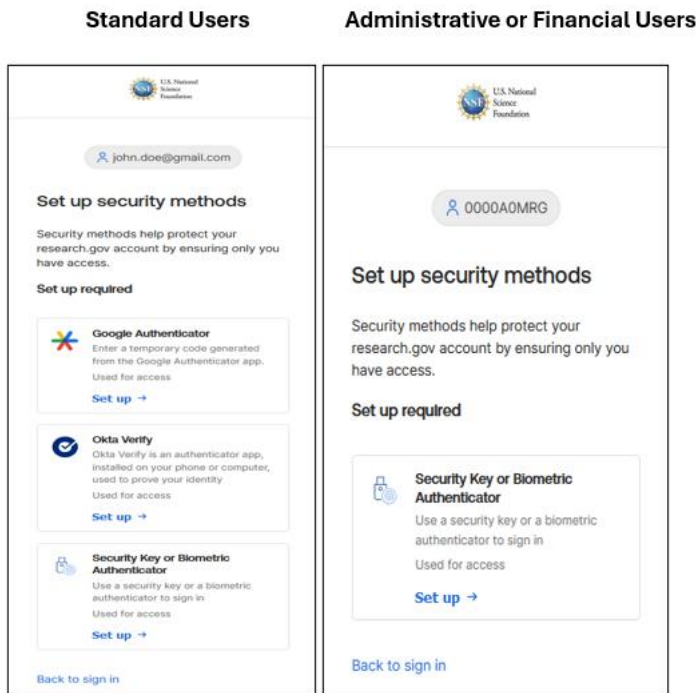
Verify

[Need Help ?](#)
[Back to sign in](#)

- Click **Sign In** from the email. After you click on **Sign In**, you will be required to set up an additional security method. (The available security methods that display depend on your role(s) in Research.gov.)

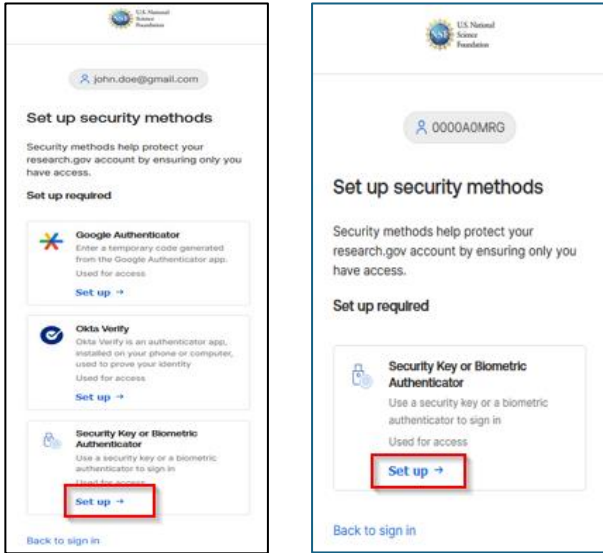


- The Set up security methods menu appears.



- Plug your security key into your computer.

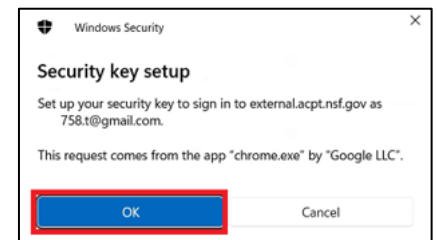
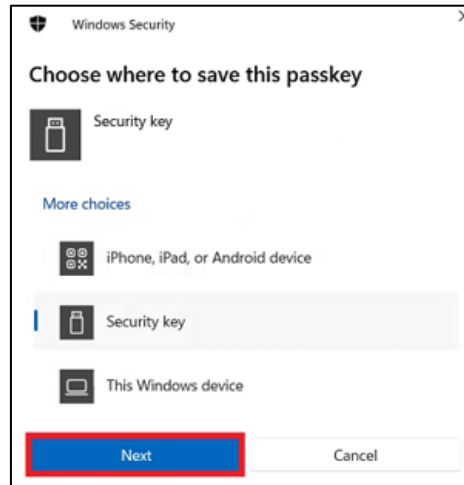
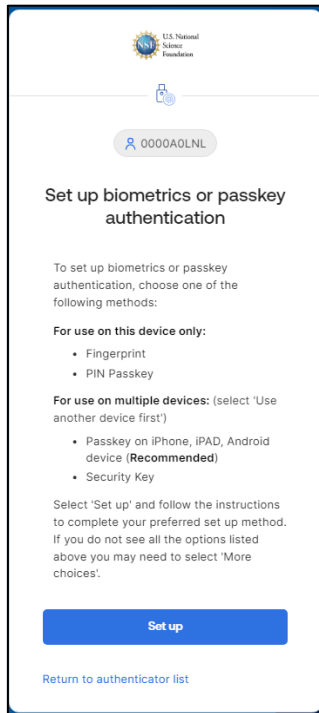
11. From the browser, click **Set up** under **Security Key or Biometric Authenticator** from the **Set up security methods** screen.



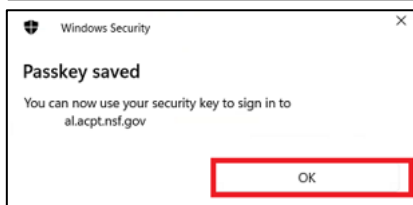
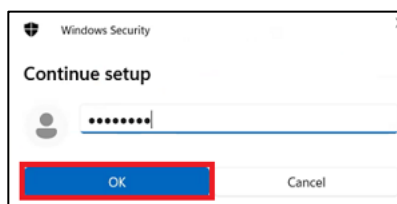
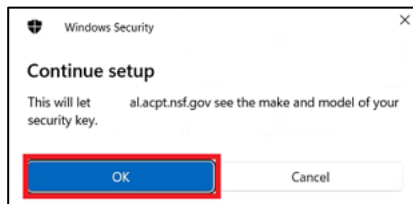
12. Click **Set up**.

Note: If you do not have an external security key (i.e., YubiKey), you will not be able to enroll in MFA with this option.

13. Select **Security Key** and click **Next**.
14. Click **OK** on the Security key setup window.
15. Click **OK** on the Continue setup window.



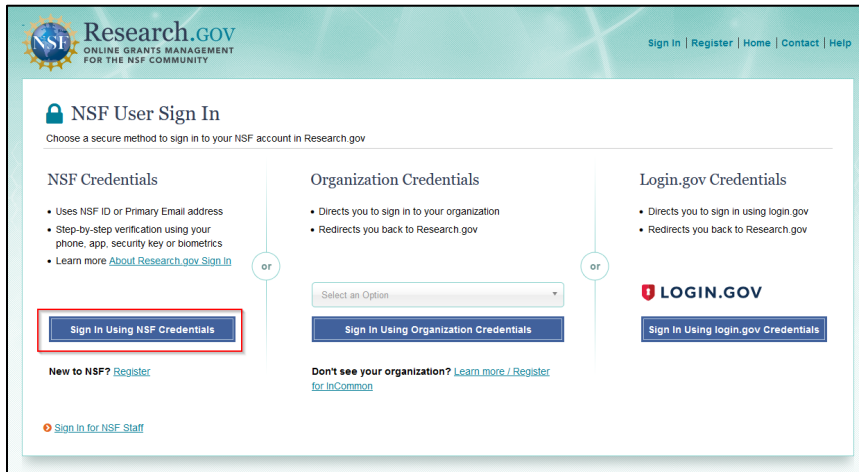
16. You may be prompted to touch the sensor on your security key.
17. Enter your PIN and click **OK** on the Continue set up window.
18. Follow the prompt below.
19. Click **OK** on the Passkey saved window.



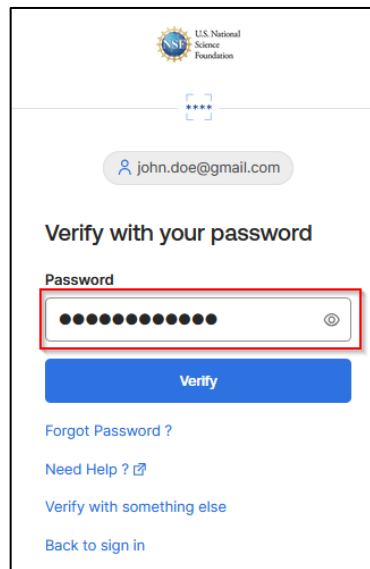
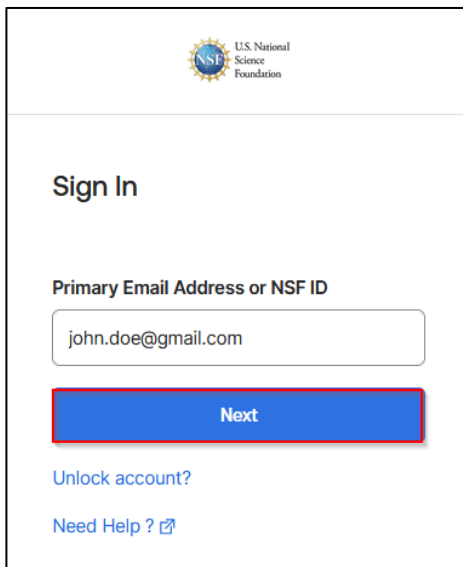
Security Key: Signing In

Note: If you don't have access to your security key, you will not be able to authenticate using this option.

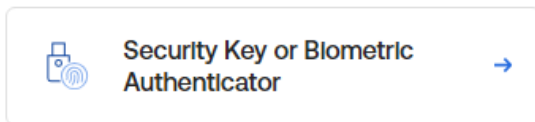
1. Open [Research.gov](https://www.research.gov)
2. Click **Sign In** located at the top of the screen to enter NSF account credentials.
3. Click **Sign In Using NSF Credentials**.



4. Enter your **primary email address or NSF ID** and click **Next**.
5. Enter your password then click **Verify**.



6. Plug your security key into your computer.
7. Select **Security Key or Biometric Authenticator** to use the security key option.



8. Select **Security Key** and click **Next**.

