

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:

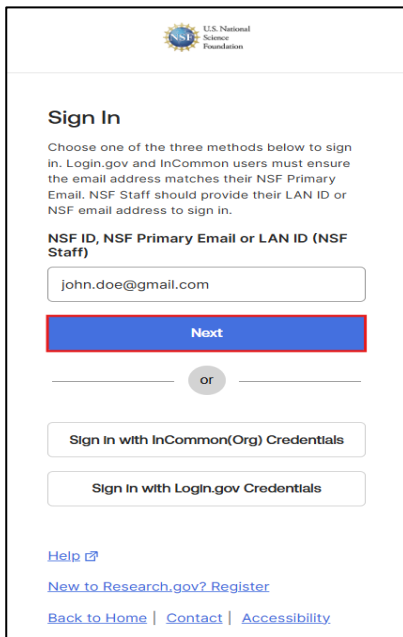
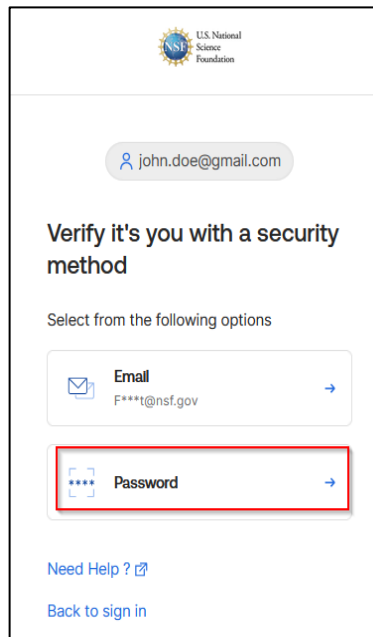
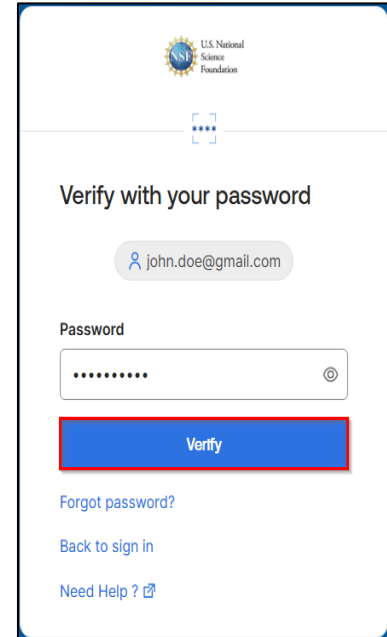
- YubiKey 5 Series
- YubiKey 5 FIPS Series

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** a web browser and go to [Research.gov](#)
2. On the Research.gov homepage, click the **“Sign In”** button located at the top-right corner of the screen
3. The system redirects you to the login page
4. Enter your **NSF ID** or **NSF Primary Email** and click **Next**.
5. Enter your password and then click **Verify**.

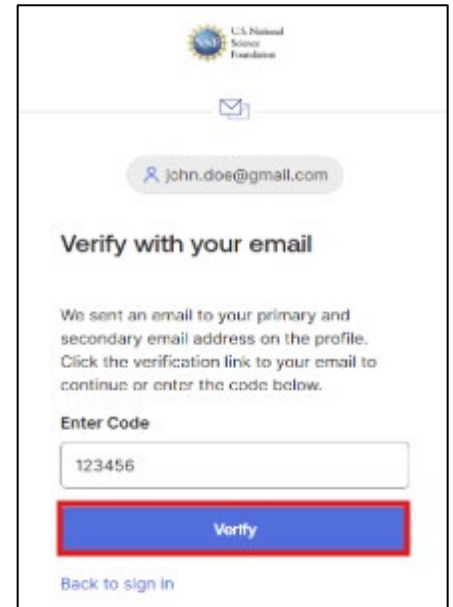
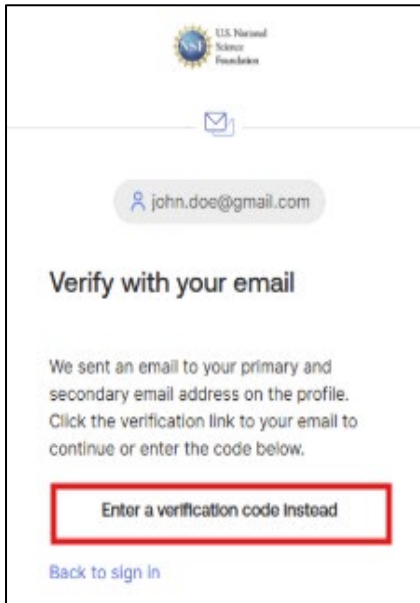
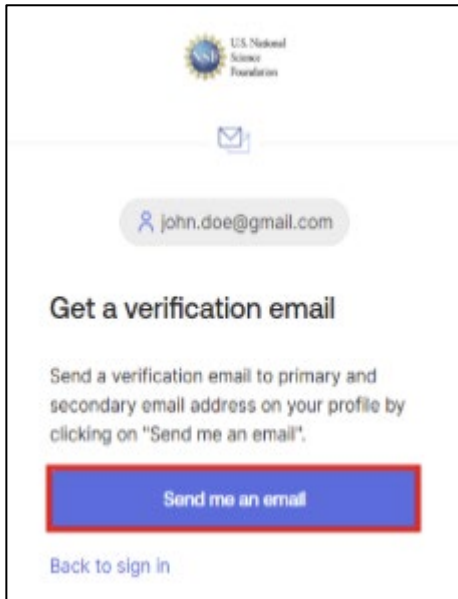
Please ensure you have access to your NSF account primary email address as you may be required to complete a validation step with a one-time passcode sent to this email.

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

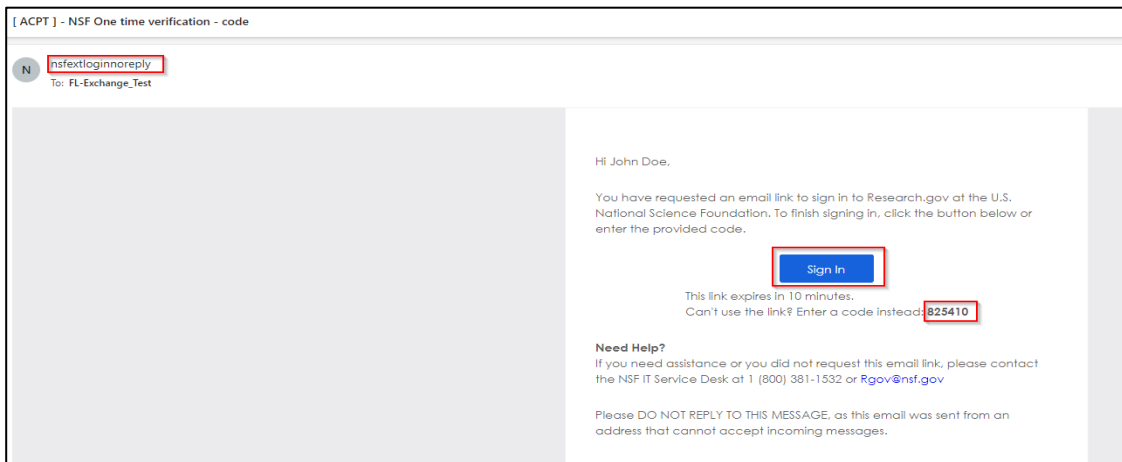
Your email address is another form of verification used to ensure you are the account owner.

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

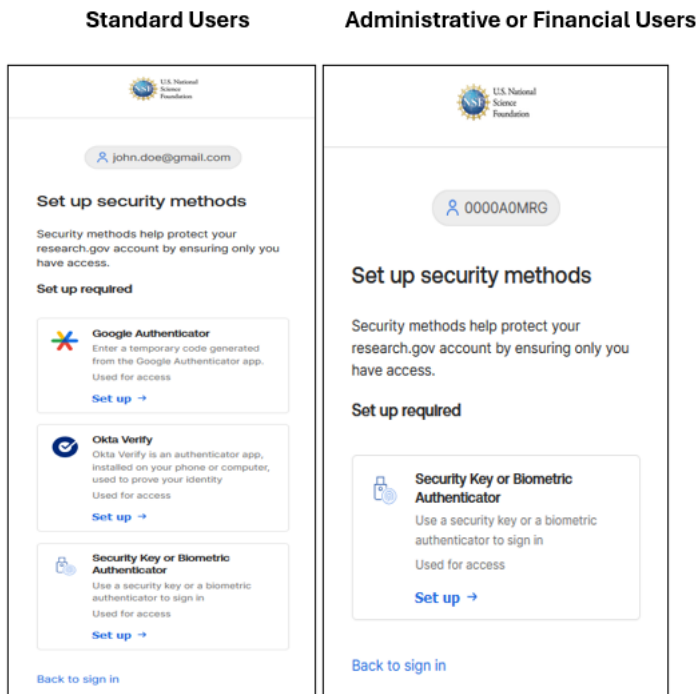
Note: If you prefer to use a code instead, you can click **Enter a verification code instead**. Enter the 6-digit code at the bottom of the Account password reset email then click **Verify**.



8. 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.)

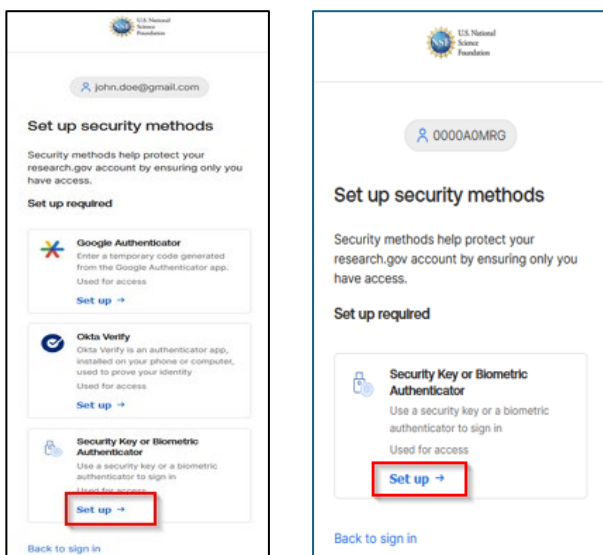


9. The Set up security methods menu appears.



10. 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.



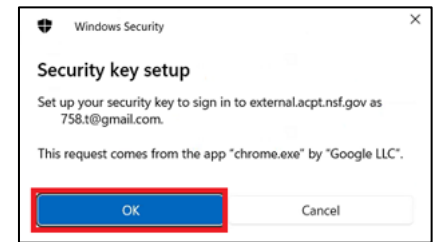
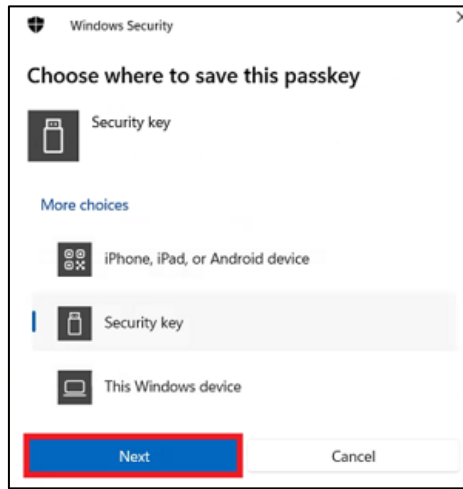
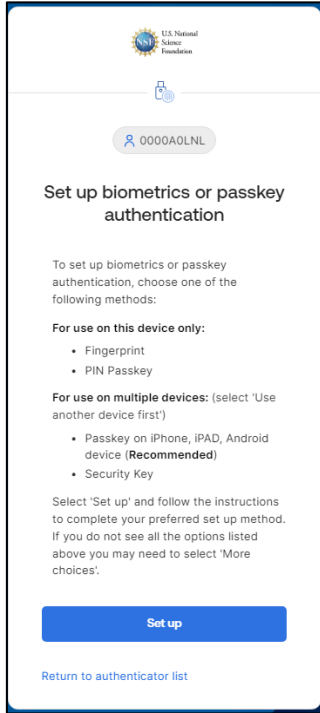
12. Click **Set up**.

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.

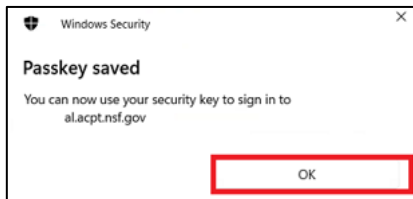
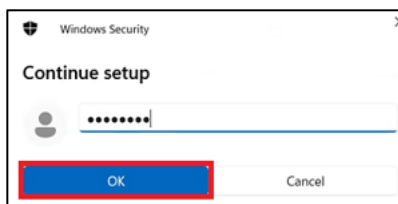
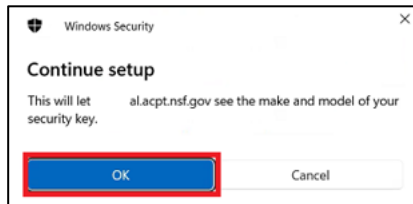


16. You may be prompted to touch the sensor on your security key.

17. Enter your PIN and click **OK** on the Continue set up window.

18. Follow the prompt below.

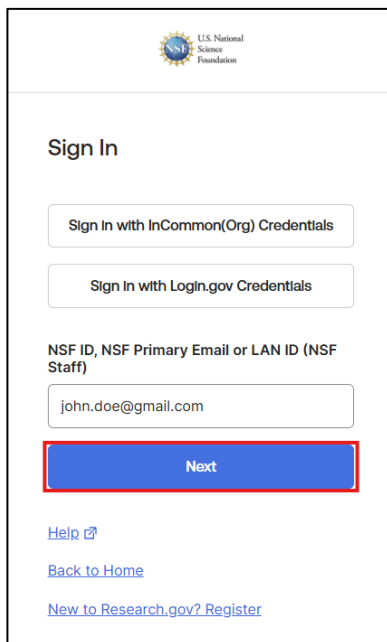
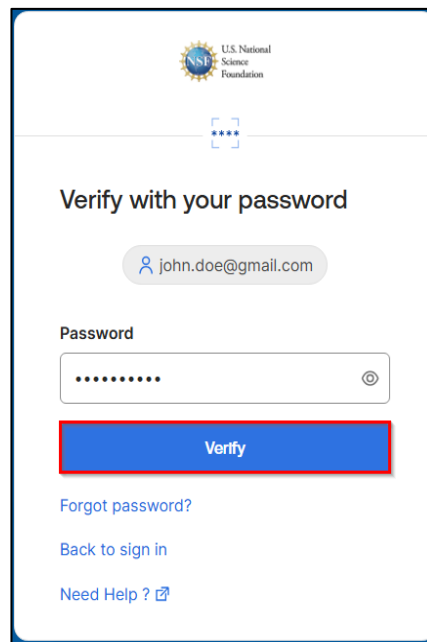
19. Click **OK** on the Passkey saved window.



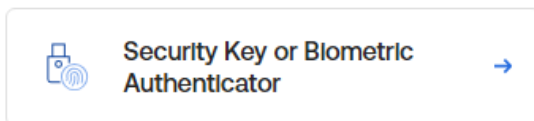
Security Key: Signing In

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

1. **Open** a web browser and go to [Research.gov](https://www.research.gov)
2. On the **Research.gov homepage**, click the **“Sign In”** button located at the top-right corner of the screen
3. The system redirects you to the login page.
4. Enter your **NSF ID** or **NSF Primary Email** and click **Next**.
5. Enter your password and 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**.

