

2019-2020 Graduate Research Opportunity Fellowship



Nevada NASA Space Grant Consortium NSHE STEM Graduate Students

Announcement for students enrolled in a full-time Masters or PhD program at:
University of Nevada, Las Vegas; University of Nevada, Reno who are or will be engaged in a Research or Hands-on-Project with Faculty Mentor(s) at the University of Nevada, Reno; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; or Desert Research Institute.

Submission Deadline:
Monday, March 4, 2019, 5pm PT
Webex Tips and Q&A: Tues, Jan 8, 2019, 12 noon PT
Repeat Webex: Tues, Jan 29, 2019, 12 noon PT



National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Space Grant College and Fellowship Training Program
Cooperative Agreement #: NNX15AI02H



Nevada NASA Space Grant

Graduate Research Opportunity Fellowship

Who is eligible?

Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) students who are **U.S. citizens and full-time graduate students** enrolled in a STEM program will be considered for a fellowship encompassing the full academic year (Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 semesters). All participating students must be supervised by at least one NSHE faculty mentor; and maintain full-time enrollment status at their institution(s) throughout the scholarship period. You must be deemed eligible to receive financial aid by your home institution in order to receive the fellowship. New applicants to this fellowship will be given first priority when it comes to fellowship award decisions. Please note that renewal applications (i.e., students who received prior NV Space Grant Fellowship awards) will only be considered if funds remain after awards to new viable applicants have been competitively assigned.

Potential Project Areas:

Students engaged in any area of science technology, engineering or math (STEM) are encouraged to apply; however, fields specifically related to unmanned aerial systems, aeronautics (including high altitude balloon projects), planetary geology, astrochemistry, astrophysics, astrobiology, biodiversity/biology, new satellite data systems, remote sensing, sustainability, agricultural science, climate change, hydrological impacts under a changing climate, and STEM education are of particular interest.

Deadline: Monday, March 4, 2019, 5 pm PT

Webex Discussion on Fellowship; [Tips and Q&A, Tues, Jan 8, 2019, 12 noon PT with a repeat Webex session on Tues, Jan 29, 2019 at 12 noon PT.](#)

Date	WebEx Link	Join by Phone
January 8, 2019	Click here to Join	1-650-429-3300
January 29, 2019	Click here to Join	1-650-429-3300

Fellowship Amount: \$17,000 per academic year

Award Period: September 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020

I. INTRODUCTION:

The Nevada NASA Space Grant Graduate Research Opportunity Fellowships program (GROF) is designed to support independently conceived NASA-related research projects by graduate students. NASA fellowship opportunities are focused on innovation through projects that will generate measurable results or advancements in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math which will contribute to NASA's current and future science and technology goals.

Fellowships will be awarded at \$17,000 for the academic year. Renewal applications from previously funded students will be considered if funds are available; however, priority will go to students new to Nevada Space Grant. Note: in recent years, there were more new applications than awards available, so no renewal applications were considered for funding.

II. ELIGIBILITY:

Applicants must be:

- **Citizens of the United States of America;** (Citizens of Puerto Rico, Washington DC, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Northern Marianas are considered U.S. citizens) Permanent residents, green card holders, and student visa holders are not eligible. Students selected as Space Grant Fellows must be citizens of the United States. Faculty who are involved in the administration of the Space Grant activities at the state level and who are not compensated from the award funds are not required to be United States citizens.
- Enrolled in (or admitted) as a full-time masters or doctoral degree program at UNLV or UNR. The degree program should be related to science and technology, which includes, but is not limited to, aeronautics, space science, engineering, computer science, physics, mathematics, STEM education and other related fields.

III. DEADLINE:

The deadline for application submission is **5:00 pm PT, on Monday, March 4, 2019.** ONLY applications for which all materials have been received will be reviewed. Incomplete applications will NOT be reviewed. It is the obligation of each applicant to verify that all letters of recommendation from faculty have been sent and received. Students will be notified at the earliest possible date as to whether or not he/she has been selected to receive a NVSGC Fellowship in Nevada. Funds will not be distributed until Congress has appropriated funds to NASA and the NASA Office of STEM Engagement has awarded the next year of funding to NV Space Grant. This means that there may be unexpected delays in the sub-award of funds to the successful graduate student applications.

HELPFUL NOTE: An excellent submission will be one that 1) is responsive to the points and questions posed in this solicitation; 2) is articulate and succinct (i.e., can be understood by anyone from any science/engineering background); 3) demonstrates a strong academic record in STEM; and 4) relates to a NASA scientific goal and/or interest.

IV. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND INSTRUCTIONS:

Potential Project Areas: Students engaged in any STEM area are encouraged to apply; however, fields specifically related to unmanned aerial systems, aeronautics (including high altitude balloon projects), planetary geology, astrochemistry, astrophysics, astrobiology, biodiversity/biology, new satellite data systems, remote sensing, sustainability, agricultural science, climate change, hydrological impacts under a changing climate, and STEM education are of particular interest. Please see the [2018 NASA Strategic Plan](#).

Award Information

- The goal of the Fellowship program is to support and reward Nevada students for their achievements in academic endeavors relevant to NASA missions and science goals.
- Acceptance of this award may impact a student's income level such that eligibility for other funding - including student loans, could be prohibited. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with their financial aid office prior to application submission.
- NSHE does not provide tax advice. If you have questions about possible tax liabilities, you may refer to the IRS web sites: <http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>.

Program Guidelines

1. Awardees must be US citizens and full-time students engaged in any STEM discipline major at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; University of Nevada, Reno who are or will be engaged in a Research or Hands-on-Project with Faculty Mentor(s) at the University of Nevada, Reno; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; or Desert Research Institute.
2. NASA requests longitudinal reporting once a year to communicate with past funded students/participants to determine any and all impacts these funding opportunities have on a student/participants future education/career plans. Any student receiving an award must comply with these tracking requests. The data are used to demonstrate the success of the program to Congress so they will continue to fund the Space Grant program in the future.
3. Awardees may be invited to prepare and present an oral or poster presentation at the National, Regional or Nevada Statewide Space Grant Meetings. Information and exact dates and location will be provided to participants. Each awardee will be expected to use a portion of these funds to support travel costs to attend the Statewide Nevada NASA Programs meeting to present a poster or talk on their project. Note: the presentation should represent the project or research done over the course of the fellowship period. If sufficient funds remain in the grant, travel funding will be made available for students to attend these meetings.

Members of under-represented groups are encouraged to apply. NASA defines under-represented groups as African Americans, Hispanics, Latinos, Native Americans and Pacific Islanders, persons with disabilities, women, veterans and first generation or geographically isolated college students.

Application Instructions

It is highly recommended that before you apply, you speak to a representative of your institution's Financial Aid Office. Depending on other awards, employment and your overall financial profile, you may or may not be eligible to receive the full fellowship amount. Only your institution's Financial Aid Office will have access to your information; the NV Space Grant Consortium Office will not have access to this information

Each application consists of completing an online form and will request the upload of a single PDF attachment at the end. The online form will ask for general information and serve as your application's cover page. Please prepare your application materials (**Items 2-7 below**) ahead of time and merge all of your documents into a single PDF file. At the end of the online application process you will be able to upload a single PDF file with all of the required application materials.

You will receive a confirmation message as soon as your application has been submitted. **If an applicant does not receive confirmation that his/her application was received, please contact Gibran Chavez-Gudino at gibran@nshe.nevada.edu to verify receipt of application by the NSHE Sponsored Programs Office.**

1. **ONLINE APPLICATION (survey form)** - All applicants will need to complete the online application. <https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/funding/2019-2020-nvsgc-fellowship/>

As a single pdf, submit the following:

2. **RESEARCH PROPOSAL** - Provide a description of your proposed research program and its relevance to NASA's interests. The maximum page limit for the research proposal is 4 pages. References are not included in the page limit. The proposal should be single-spaced with 1" margins, in 12-pt font and include: abstract (50-100 words); an introduction; objectives and/or research hypotheses; research methods/tasks; anticipated results during the fellowship period; a timetable for the project and a brief discussion on how the proposed research meets one or more of NASA's missions or strategic research areas. The research proposal should be written in a manner that anyone from any science, technology or engineering background can understand what you are proposing to research and why it is important. Please include a brief statement describing your presentation and publication plan. (Those who receive a fellowship must complete a minimum of one publication or presentation, which must be submitted, or prepared for submission by the end of the fellowship period.)
3. **TRANSCRIPTS** – Both undergraduate and graduate transcripts must be submitted. "Unofficial" pdf transcripts downloaded from the University website are acceptable. Transcripts of all course work completed, including a list of courses currently enrolled in for the upcoming semester are required. Due to time constraints, if you previously attended a non-NSHE higher education institution - those transcripts should be scanned into the single pdf containing all of your transcripts.

4. **LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT/RECOMMENDATION (2-3)** - Letters of Recommendations are required. One letter must be from the applicant's advisor who will serve as mentor for the proposed fellowship project. The mentor should clearly define their role/involvement in the proposed project in their letter of support. The other letter may be from a professor, advisor, or university administrator who is well acquainted with you academically. These letters may be included in the application packet, **or for confidentiality reasons, these letters may be emailed - separate from the application - directly from the person writing the letter by the deadline.** Our online platform also provides submission of letters of recommendation by faculty in a confidential manner – see website for details.
5. **CV or BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH** A Biosketch/CV should be completed and included in the PDF file. A template is available at: <https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Student-CV-Builder.pdf>
6. **STATEMENT OF INTEREST (SOI)**- This section provides the applicant with an opportunity to introduce himself/herself to the review panel. Information that describes why he/she would be a good candidate for this NASA funded opportunity. The SOI must be no more than one page. It should include education, training, and other accomplishments as they might relate to a successful aerospace or science/engineering/technology-related fields or science education fields. Make sure the applicant's full name and email address are in the header of the statement. As a helpful note, an excellent SOI document will include the following: Education and Career interests, experiences, and goals. Please be thorough but succinct in responding to each point that follows:
 - a. Describe your interest in an aerospace or STEM-related career as it relates to a NASA objective/goal as stated in the [2018 NASA Strategic Plan](#).
 - b. Describe your technical and educational experiences and how these experiences have prepared you for a fellowship.
 - c. Extracurricular activities, such as clubs, scientific societies, science team activities, tutoring, volunteer, etc.
 - d. How will this fellowship impact your future goals?

V. PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Graduate Research Opportunity Fellowship proposals will be selected based on a statewide merit-based review. The screening and selection process will include review by a committee of NSHE faculty that will focus on the following review criteria:

1. Expressed motivation and interest in a NASA-relevant STEM career and a demonstrated level of academic preparation and excellence as reflected by his/her curriculum vita (resume) and academic records/GPA, particularly appropriate coursework that would predict success in a research experience.

2. The quality, novelty and feasibility of the proposed research and how well it meets the requirements stated in the Research Narrative section. (Remember to check your spelling and grammar and ensure that anyone from any discipline can understand what you are proposing to research and why it is important.)
3. How relevant the proposed research is to any or multiple NASA missions.
4. Recommendation letters must be supportive of his/her credentials and ability to successfully complete the proposed research. The level of faculty mentor involvement should be clearly stated in their letter.
5. Clearly defined products appropriate for the fellowship period (i.e., anticipated research results, publications, conference presentations, etc. or if you are at the start of your project, only list the items you anticipate accomplishing by the end of the fellowship year)

Contact Information:

Applicants with questions regarding this program are strongly encouraged to contact the Nevada Space Grant Consortium team.

Lynn Fenstermaker

Project Director
Nevada NASA Programs
lynn.fenstermaker@dri.edu; phone: 702 862-5412

Gibran Chavez-Gudino

Research Administrator
Nevada NASA Programs
gibran@nshe.nevada.edu; phone: 702 522-7081

More information about NV Space Grant may be found at:
<https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/>