

2017-2018 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, April 3, 2017,
5pm Pacific**



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?

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 annual year (Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 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.

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, April 3, 2017, 5 pm Pacific**

Fellowship Amount: \$18,000 per academic year

Award Period: September 1, 2017 through May 31, 2018

I. INTRODUCTION:

Nevada NASA Space Grant Graduate Research Opportunity Fellowships program (GROF) is designed to support independently conceived or designed research, or senior design projects by graduate students, in disciplines that will help advance missions and goals of NASA; thus, providing an opportunity to directly contribute to advancements in STEM-related areas of study. 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 \$18,000 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 NASA Space Grant programs.

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 the Northern Mariana Islands. *Permanent residents, green card holders, or student visa holders (F, J, or M) are not eligible to receive direct funding.*
 - Students selected as Space Grant Fellows or Scholars and faculty who receive direct support must be citizens of the United States.
 - Faculty involved in Space Grant activities at the state level, who are not compensated from the award funds, need not be US citizens.
 - Faculty involved in Space Grant activities may be permanent residents, green card holders, or US visa holders as long as they are not compensated from the award funds.
- Enrolled (or admitted) as a full-time masters or doctoral degree program student 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 Pacific, on Monday, April 3, 2017.** 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 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.

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; 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.

Award Information

- The goal of the Fellowship program is to support and reward Nevada students for their achievements in academic endeavors related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics and should be administered as a fellowship.
- Because acceptance of this award may impact a student's income level to a degree that could affect eligibility for other funding - including student loans, it is the students' responsibility to consult with their graduate student office and their campus financial aid advisors. Nevada Space Grant highly encourages students 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: <https://www.irs.gov/>.

Program Guidelines

1. Awardees must be US citizens and full-time students engaged in any major of a STEM discipline (science, technology, engineering or math) 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/participant's future education/career plans.
3. It is possible that awardees will be invited to prepare and present an oral or poster presentation at the National or Regional Space Grant Consortium Meeting. Information and exact dates and location will be provided to participants. The poster 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.

Women and members of underrepresented groups who are first generation and/or geographically isolated are especially encouraged to apply. NASA defines underrepresented groups as African Americans, Hispanics, Latinos, Native Americans and Pacific Islanders, in addition to persons with disabilities, women and veterans.

Application Instructions

- Proposals must be uploaded as one (1) complete PDF file (below mentioned documents 1-7) at <https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/funding/2017-2018-nvsgc-fellowship/> by the deadline of: **Monday, April 3rd, 2017 at 5:00 pm, PT.**
- Incomplete proposals as well as proposals submitted after that date and time will not be reviewed.
- PDFS should be named: **NVSGC_GROF_(your last name).**

If an applicant does not receive confirmation that his/her proposal was received, please contact Gibran Chavez-Gudino at nasa@nshe.nevada.edu to verify receipt of proposal 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/2017-2018-nvsgc-fellowship/>

As a single pdf, submit the following:

2. **RESEARCH PROPOSAL** - Provide a description of your proposed research program and its relationship to NASA's interests. The maximum page limit for the research proposal is 4 pages. Citations are not included in the page limit. The proposal should include: abstract (50-100 words); an introduction; objectives; research hypotheses; research methods/tasks; and timetable for the project.
3. **DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS PLAN** – Please provide a brief document describing your presentation and publication plan. (Those who receive a fellowship must complete a minimum of one publication, which must be submitted, or prepared for submission.)
4. **TRANSCRIPTS** - “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.
5. **LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT/RECOMMENDATION (2-3)** - Letters of Recommendations on official institutional letterhead are required. One letter must be from the applicant’s advisor who will serve as mentor for the proposed fellowship project. 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 uploaded at** <https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/submit-recommendation-2017-2018-grof/>

6. **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>
7. **STATEMENT OF INTEREST**- 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-related career, including any science, mathematics, engineering, technology 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 NASA Strategic Plan (2014) at: https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/files/FY2014_NASA_SP_508c.pdf
 - 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.
 - f. How will this fellowship impact the applicant's 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 STEM/aerospace career
2. A demonstrated level of academic preparation and excellence as reflected by his/her academic records/GPA and appropriate coursework which would predict success in a research experience
3. Background experience and/or extracurricular activities that would help predict success in a research experience. An evaluation of the student's CV and supporting documents in regards to experience and potential for working in team environments, activities that illustrate initiative and leadership potential, etc.
4. Clearly articulated motivation and reasons for seeking this fellowship (statement of interest)
5. Recommendation letters must be strong and supportive of his/her participation in the program, including specific reference to his/her potential and likelihood for success in this program
6. Level of faculty/mentor's involvement

7. Overall quality of the entire application
8. Quality and feasibility of the research proposal and it's relevancy to NASA

Contacts

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

Nevada NASA Research Administrator

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