

NEVADA SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM (NVSGC)
SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

2018-2019 Undergraduate Scholarship Program



Nevada NASA Space Grant Consortium NSHE STEM Undergraduate Students

NOTE: IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS.

While all NSHE undergraduate students are eligible to apply for the academic year Scholarship program, the application process is different for:

Lower Division Students (*those who have completed 59 or fewer semester credits overall*) and **Upper Division Students** (*those who have completed 60 or more semester credits overall*).

We anticipate awarding scholarships to both lower and upper division students in proportion to the number of applications that are received.

Be sure to read the directions carefully, as those that do not submit the appropriate application information will not be considered.

Announcement for undergraduate students enrolled in a full-time program at:
University of Nevada, Las Vegas; University of Nevada, Reno; Nevada State College; College of Southern Nevada; Great Basin College; Truckee Meadows Community College; or Western Nevada College

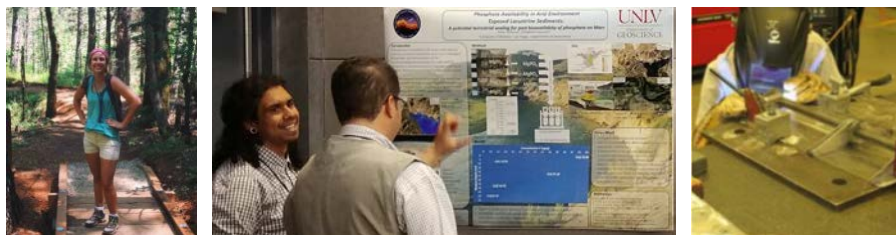
Submission Deadline:
Monday, February 12, 2018, 5pm PT



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



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NV SPACE GRANT SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Who is eligible? Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) students who are **U.S. citizens and full-time undergraduate students** enrolled in a NASA-related STEM program will be considered for either a fully immersed 2018 summer research program or the full academic year (Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 semesters). Please note that when submitting an application, the applicant must indicate whether a summer or academic year scholarship period is preferred. 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: Projects must be in a NASA-related science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) topic area. We encourage you to talk to a NSHE faculty mentor to discuss NASA strategic science areas as described in the 2014 NASA Strategic Science Plan, located at: https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/files/FY2014_NASA_SP_508c.pdf Helpful information including a link to a list of volunteer NSHE MENTORS is provided at the bottom of this announcement.

Application Deadline: 5:00 pm (PT) on Monday, February 12, 2018.

Scholarship Amount:

- 1) \$4,000 will be competitively awarded (based on a statewide review) for either a 10-week period during the summer of 2018 or the 2018-2019 school year. Funds for the academic year will be disbursed at the beginning of each semester for the duration of the scholarship period – pending the awardee’s maintained “good-standing” as a student at their institution and their mentor’s continued support and approval. Each awardee will be expected to use a portion of these funds to support travel costs to attend a Statewide Nevada Space Grant and NASA EPSCoR meeting to present a poster or talk on their project.
- 2) **Award Period:** Summer 2018 or Fall 2018 through Spring 2019 semesters.

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I. INTRODUCTION

This opportunity is designed to support independently conceived research or hands-on-projects by NSHE undergraduate students in disciplines that will help advance the missions and goals of NASA. Scholarship projects should generate measurable results or advancements in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math (STEM) research that are relevant to NASA's science and technology goals.

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 residence status, green card, or student visa are not accepted. Students selected as Space Grant Scholars must be citizens of the United States.
- Enrolled in (or admitted) in a full-time undergraduate degree program at an NSHE institution. 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 a complete application submission is 5:00 pm PT, on Monday, February 12, 2018. ONLY applications for which all materials have been received will be reviewed. Incomplete applications will NOT be reviewed. Applications submitted after the deadline 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 Scholarship.

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 APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Potential Project Areas: Students engaged in any NASA-related 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.

Single or Group Projects: It is acceptable for applications to come from two or more students who are conducting a complementary hands-on-project or research project

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that contributes to a larger faculty project; however, each application must be a unique effort by the student(s) and will be reviewed on its own merit; not the merit of the faculty project.

Scholarship awardees must conduct their projects under the guidance of a mentor. If you are having difficulty finding a mentor, please consider using the Nevada STEM Mentor website at: <https://stemmentor.epscorspo.nevada.edu/> Students seeking a collaborative research experience may opt to engage with two or more mentors from different institutions. For example: In addition to having a “home-institution” mentor, students may include Co-Mentors from DRI, UNLV, UNR as well as mentors from local STEM businesses/industry or NASA Personnel. If you are unsure of options, please contact Mr. Gibran Chavez-Gudino using the contact information at the end of this document.

General Information

- The goal of the Scholarship program is to support real research experiences for Nevada students based on their achievements in academic endeavors related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- All NSHE undergraduate students are eligible to apply for the summer or academic year Scholarship program. The application review process will, however, differentiate between: **Lower Division Students (*those who have completed 59 or fewer semester credits overall*) and Upper Division Students (*those who have completed 60 or more semester credits overall*)**. We anticipate awarding scholarships to both lower and upper division students in proportion to the number of applications that are received.
- Be sure to read the directions carefully, as those who do not submit a complete application will not be considered.
- 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 undergraduate 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: <http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>.

Program Guidelines

1. Awardees must be US citizens and full-time students engaged in a NASA-related STEM discipline (science, technology, engineering or math) at any NSHE institution: College of Southern Nevada, Great Basin College, Nevada State College, Truckee Meadows Community College, University of Nevada Las Vegas, University of Nevada Reno, and Western Nevada College.
2. NASA requests longitudinal reporting once a year to communicate with past funded students/participants to determine any and all impacts Space Grant funding opportunities have on a student’s future education/career plans. All awardees must agree to provide timely information for this report. The data is used to demonstrate the success of the Space Grant program to Congress, so that funding will continue to

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be appropriated for future students.

3. 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

It is highly recommended that before you apply, you speak to a representative of your institution's Financial Aid Office. As stated previously, depending on other awards, employment and your overall financial status, you may or may not be eligible to receive a scholarship. 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 an online form which will include 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 nasa@nshe.nevada.edu to verify receipt of application by the NSHE Sponsored Programs Office.

1. ONLINE APPLICATION (online form) - All applicants will need to complete the online application <https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/funding/2018-2019-nvsgc-ug/>

As a single PDF file, submit the following documents:

2. Project Description (limit three pages, including any and all graphs or pictures):

The design of a proposed project may be the result of a collaborative effort by the applicant and mentor; however, the project description must be written solely by the student. It should be a concise statement including clear hypotheses to be tested or research objectives that will be addressed. The project description must be written so that is understandable to reviewers whose background may be outside the applicant's specific field. The two page project description should be single-spaced with 1" margins, in 12-pt font and must include the following sections:

- a. Abstract (50-100 words)
- b. Introduction (background on why the project is important)
- c. Objectives or research hypotheses/questions
- d. Plans for research work, i.e., methods or tasks to be completed

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- e. Timetable: (This must be reasonable and aligned with a summer or two semester project.)
- f. Plans for dissemination of results, e.g., presentation, report, journal publication

3. References/citations: Please provide appropriate references/citations related to the project you propose to perform. The citations are not included in the three-page limit for the project description.

4. Scanned transcripts or downloaded “unofficial” pdf transcripts from College/University website. Transcripts of all courses completed, including a list of courses currently enrolled in for fall 2018 must be provided.

5. Biographical Sketch or Curriculum Vita (CV): The student and mentor must each provide a biographical sketch or CV, which is limited to two pages per person and are not included in the three-page limit for the project description. A template is available at: <https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Student-CV-Builder.pdf>

6. Endorsement Letters: At least one letter is to be written by the supervising faculty mentor(s) indicating their approval of the proposed project and describing their level of involvement in the project. All proposed mentors should affirm that the application is the original work of the student and that only guidance in editing and formatting the document were provided to the student applicant. Each proposed mentor must “sign-off” on the application, noting approval and affirming that they have read the student’s application and pledge to mentor the student throughout the project period. The letter must be in official letterhead OR must be a PDF copy of an email sent from the faculty’s official university/college address. It is the obligation of each applicant to verify that all letters of endorsement have been sent and received.

7. 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 NASA-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 a NASA or STEM-related career as it relates to a NASA objectives/goals as stated in the 2014 NASA Strategic Plan at: https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/files/FY2014_NASA_SP_508c.pdf
- b. Describe your technical and educational experiences and how these

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experiences have prepared you for a scholarship.

c. Extracurricular activities, such as clubs, scientific societies, science team activities, tutoring, volunteer, etc.

d. How will this scholarship impact the applicant's future goals?

V. APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Scholarship applications will be selected based on a statewide merit-based review. The screening and selection process will include review by a committee of NSHE faculty from at least three different NSHE institutions. The review will focus on the following review criteria:

1. Expressed motivation and interest in a NASA or STEM-related 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 successfully completing a research project.
4. Clearly articulated motivation and reasons for seeking this scholarship.
5. Endorsement letter(s) must be strong and supportive of the student's participation in the program, including specific reference to his/her potential and likelihood for success in this program. The level of the faculty mentor's involvement in the project is clearly defined in the letter.
7. Overall quality of the application.
8. Quality and feasibility of the research plan and its relevancy to NASA.

VI. REVIEW RESULTS AND AWARD/NON-AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is anticipated that the review will be completed by the end of March 2018 and announcements of the review results will be sent by email shortly thereafter. Scholarship funding will be sub-awarded through your NSHE Institution's Sponsored Project and/or Financial Aid Offices sometime between mid-May and early June, i.e., after NASA Headquarters sends annual funds to NV Space Grant. (Note: Unforeseen Congressional and/or NASA delays may impact the arrival date of the NV Space Grant funds and when your sub-award will be processed and available to you.)

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VII. 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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Nevada NASA Project Director
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For a listing of Nevada STEM Mentors, visit:
<https://stemmentor.epscorspo.nevada.edu/>