

# 2020-2021 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 review process distinguishes between:

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

We will award scholarships to both lower and upper division students in proportion to the number of applications that are received in each category. Renewal applications from previously funded students will be considered if funds are available; however, priority will go to students new to the Nevada Space Grant. Note: if you are selected for both a NV NSF EPSCoR and NV Space Grant scholarship, you will be given the opportunity to select which you prefer.

Please note that this program has historically had a high funding rate

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

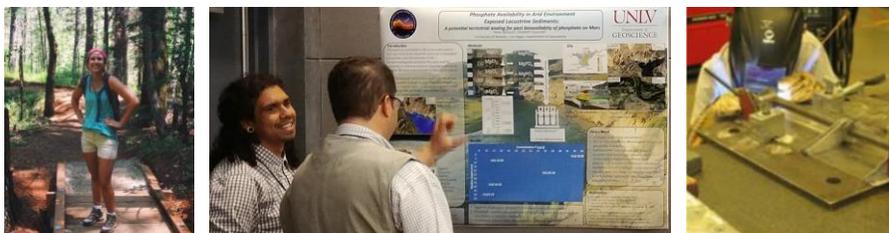
**Submission Deadline:  
Monday, April 6, 2020, 5pm PT**



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 2020 summer research program or the full academic year (Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters) research program. 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. You must be deemed eligible to receive financial aid by your home institution in order to receive the scholarship.

**Potential Project Areas:** Students engaged in NASA specific science technology, engineering or math (STEM) are encouraged to apply. **The NASA Office of STEM Engagement now requires that all awards/projects specifically address a Mission Directorate research priority; see file “paperclipped” to this solicitation.**

**Deadline:** **Monday, April 6, 2020, 5 pm PT**

**MS Teams 365 online Discussion (tips and Q&A) on Scholarship and Fellowship applications will be held on the following dates:**

**Scholarship Amount:** \$3,000 for either a 10-week period during the summer of 2020 or the 2020-2021 school year.

**Award Period:** Summer 2020 or Fall 2020 through Spring 2021 semesters.

### I. INTRODUCTION

This opportunity is designed to support independently conceived research or hands-on-projects by NSHE undergraduate students in disciplines that will directly 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 directly relevant to NASA Mission Directorate research priorities; see attached file.

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”

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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.

## **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 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. The student must also be considered in "good standing" at their home institution to be eligible for the scholarship.

## **III. DEADLINE:**

The deadline for a complete application submission is 5:00 pm PT, on Monday, April 6, 2020. 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.

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 and written so that anyone from any science/engineering/technology background can understand what research is being proposed and why it is important; 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 STEM area are encouraged to apply; however, the research topic (as stated above) must directly address a NASA Mission Directorate research priority.

**Scholarship awardees must** conduct their projects under the guidance of a faculty 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

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unsure what is allowed, 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 NASA-relevant 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 in each category.
- 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 officers 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 site: <https://www.irs.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 requires longitudinal reporting once a year. This involves requesting information from past recipients to determine any and all impacts Space Grant funded 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 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

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your institution's Financial Aid Office. As stated previously, depending on other awards, employment and your overall financial profile, 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. If you are selected for both a NV NSF EPSCoR and NV Space Grant scholarship, you will be given the opportunity to select which you prefer.

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.

**If an applicant does not receive confirmation that his/her application was received, please contact Gibran Chavez-Gudino at [gchavez-gudino@nshe.nevada.edu](mailto:gchavez-gudino@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 at the link below.  
<https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/funding/2020-2021-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 (we suggest you use these sections as headers for your proposal):
  - a. Abstract (50-100 words)
  - b. Introduction (background on why the project is important and relevant to one or more NASA Mission Directorate research priority)
  - c. Objectives or research hypotheses/questions
  - d. Plans for research work, i.e., methods or tasks to be completed
  - e. Timetable: (This must be reasonable and aligned with a summer or two semester project.)
  - f. Plans for reporting results, e.g., presentation, class report, or even a journal publication

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NOTE: 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.

- 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.
  
- 3. 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 2020 must be provided, including any course taken at a non-NSHE institution.
  
- 4. Biographical Sketch or Curriculum Vita (CV):** The student must each provide a biographical sketch or CV, which is limited to two pages and is 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>
  
- 5. 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 email address. It is the obligation of each applicant to verify that all letters of endorsement have been sent and received.
  
- 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 NASA Mission Directorate priorities as stated in the paperclipped list.
  - 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. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. The review will focus on the following review criteria that are worth 10 points each:

1. Quality and feasibility of the research plan and how well it meets the requirements stated in the Project Description 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. 30 pts).
2. How relevant the proposed research is to one or more NASA Mission Directorate research priorities (25 pts).
3. 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 (25 pts).
4. Mentor 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 (i.e., their role in the project) should be clearly defined in the letter (20 pts).

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## **VI. REVIEW RESULTS AND AWARD/NON-AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

It is anticipated that the review will be completed by May 2020 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.)

## **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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702-862-5412

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

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