2026-2027 Nevada NASA
Space Grant Consortium
Graduate Research Opportunity Fellowship (GROF)

Announcement for graduate students enrolled in a full-time program at:
University of Nevada, Las Vegas and University of Nevada, Reno

Submission Deadline: Friday, March 13, 2026, 5 pm PT

Tips and Q&A Webinar: Monday, February 2, 2026, at 12:00 pm PT

Click here to join the meeting

Tips and Q&A Webinar will be recorded and posted on the NV NASA Programs website.
Email daranda@nshe.nevada.edu if you have any trouble with the meeting link.

NOTE: Please open this document in Adobe Acrobat to view attached paperclip resource files relevant to this solicitation.

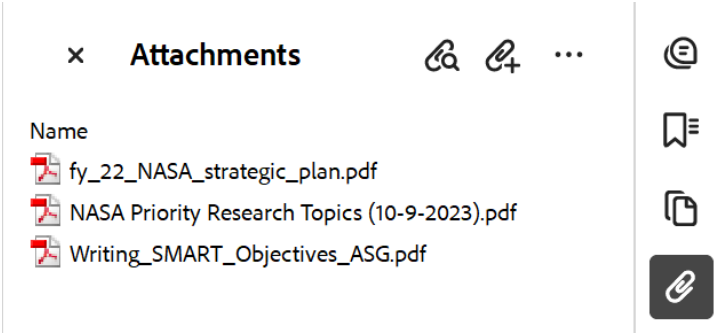
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Space Grant College and Fellowship Training Program
Cooperative Agreement No.: **80NSSC25M7094**

GRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY FELLOWSHIP

The Nevada NASA Space Grant Consortium (NVSGC) invites applications for its **Graduate Research Opportunity Fellowships (GROF)**, supporting full-time graduate students at the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) institutions conducting research aligned with NASA Mission Directorate priorities.

Paperclipped Attachments

Please note, to view all relevant attachments to this solicitation, please open this PDF document in Adobe Acrobat and select the paperclip on the side of the screen (you may need to click the arrow to expand the panel where the paperclip is located). Any questions regarding the paperclip attachments or how to access these documents can be directed to Darlene Aranda at daranda@nshe.nevada.edu.



Eligibility and Application Scope

This opportunity is open to **full-time graduate students** enrolled at an NSHE institution who are pursuing a master's or doctoral degree in a **NASA-related STEM discipline**. Eligible students may come from a wide range of fields including, but not limited to, engineering, physics, space science, computer science, environmental science, mathematics, and STEM education.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a U.S. citizen (permanent residents and visa holders are **not eligible**)
- Be enrolled full-time in a STEM master's or doctoral program at UNLV or UNR during the award period
    - Or Be accepted into a STEM master's or doctoral program at UNLV or UNR for fall semester. **Include the letter with your application package.**
- Be supervised by at least one NSHE faculty mentor during the project period.

Award Amount and Disbursement

Each selected student can receive up to **$20,000** per academic year.

- **$10,000** in the **Fall** semester
- **$10,000** in the **Spring** semester

This fellowship is **not** a Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA) or employment-based position.

Fellows are **not employees** of their institution and will **not receive** employee benefits such as health insurance or grant-in-aid. Scheduling is flexible, allowing fellows to work at their own pace under faculty mentorship, as long as the project scope is completed by the end of the fellowship period.

Fellows **may also hold a GRA or TA** position concurrently but must consult their institution's **Financial Aid Office** to ensure compliance with federal cost of attendance regulations. NV Space Grant is not responsible for determining financial aid impacts.

Important: Financial aid packages, loan eligibility, and other funding may be affected. Please speak with your campus Financial Aid Office prior to applying.

Considerations

All qualified graduate students are encouraged to apply; however, **priority will be given to new applicants** who have not previously received NVSGC funding.

Application Process

Applications must be submitted online and include a **single PDF file** containing all required materials. **Incomplete or late submissions will not be reviewed.**

The application must include the following:

1. **Online Application Form**: (https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/funding/2026-2027-nvsgc-fellowship/)
2. **Research Proposal** (4 pages max):
   A clearly written proposal, prepared by the student, explaining the research objectives, significance, NASA alignment, timeline, and methods. It must be understandable to reviewers from diverse STEM backgrounds.
3. **References/Citations**: Listed separately and not included in the page limit.
4. **Unofficial Transcripts**: From all colleges attended, including Spring 2026 course enrollments.
5. **Biographical Sketch or CV** (2 pages max):
   The student and faculty must each provide a biographical sketch or CV, which is limited to two pages and is not included in the two-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. **Recommendation Letters** (2-3):
   At least one letter from the supervising mentor on letterhead or sent from an official email, affirming the originality of the proposal and their intent to support the student and their role/involvement in the project.
7. **Statement of Interest** (1 page):
   A concise overview of the student's background, experiences, and goals, emphasizing their interest in a NASA-related STEM career, as well as how the fellowship will impact their goals.

If you do not receive a confirmation email after submitting your application, please contact **Darlene Aranda** at **daranda@nshe.nevada.edu** to verify receipt.

Research Proposal Guidelines

Students must propose a research project that aligns with one of **NASA's Mission Directorate research priorities**. For reference, applicants should consult the attached document: "*NASA Priority Research Topics (10-9-2023)*" and/or https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/.

The proposal must include:

- Title
- Abstract (50–100 words)
- Introduction and NASA relevance
- Research objectives or hypotheses
- Methodology and research plan
- Project timeline (one academic year)
- Plans for dissemination (e.g., poster, report, publication)
- Proposals should be single-spaced, with 1" margins, using 12-pt Times New Roman font.

Mentorship and Support

Each fellowship recipient must be supervised by an NSHE faculty mentor. Collaborative mentorship is allowed and encouraged, particularly across institutions or with participation from DRI, UNLV, UNR, STEM industry partners, or NASA personnel.

If you need help identifying a mentor, please consult the **Nevada STEM Mentor Network**: https://stemmentor.epscorspo.nevada.edu

Review Process and Notification

All applications will undergo a statewide, merit-based review by a panel of NSHE faculty from at least three different institutions. Selection is based on:

- Quality and clarity of the proposed research
- Relevance to NASA Mission Directorate priorities
- Student's motivation and long-term career interest in NASA-related STEM
- Academic performance and research preparation
- Quality of recommendation letter and their project involvement
- Clearly defined products appropriate for the fellowship period (only list the items you anticipate accomplishing by the end of the fellowship)

Once the review panel has completed the review of all Fellowship applications, students will be notified via email. Fellowships will be awarded and distributed by each student's home institution once federal funds are released. Please note that delays from NASA or Congress may impact fund disbursement timeframe (timelines are not provided due to this reason).

Program Expectations and Reporting

If your proposal is selected for funding, you will be expected to:

- Provide a headshot or photo of you in the lab or field, sign a media release form (located on our website), and a summary of your proposed research, academic, and career goals.

- Present project at the next NASA Statewide Annual Meeting (in poster form or if selected, as an oral presentation)
- Respond to annual NVSGC/NASA follow-up surveys regarding education and career trajectory
    - NASA uses this data to demonstrate program impact to Congress and justify continued funding.

Deadline:

Applications must be received by **Friday, March 13, 2026, at 5:00 PM PT**. Late or incomplete submissions will not be reviewed. Applicants are responsible for ensuring all materials, including letters of recommendation, are submitted on time.

Informational Webinar

NVSGC Fellowship & Scholarship Application Tips/Q&A

An *Application Tips & Q&A Session* will be held via Microsoft Teams:

Thursday, February 2, 2026
12:00 PM PT
Click here to join the meeting

This session will be recorded and made available on the NV NASA Programs website. Contact daranda@nshe.nevada.edu if you encounter technical issues with the link.

Applicants with questions regarding this program are strongly encouraged to contact Darlene Aranda at **daranda@nshe.nevada.edu**

Contact Information

Eric Wilcox
Project Director
Nevada NASA Programs
eric.wilcox@dri.edu
phone: 775-673-7686

Arlene Herrera
Research Administrator
Nevada NASA Programs
aherrera@nshe.nevada.edu
phone: 702-522-7081

Darlene Aranda
NASA Program Coordinator
Nevada NASA Programs
daranda@nshe.nevada.edu
phone: 702-522-7072

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