

UPDATED ON August 27, 2015 (see CLARIFICATION AND NEW SUBMISSION DEADLINE.)

2015-2016 Higher Education 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: (Quick turn-around time!)
Monday, October 12, 2015, 5pm PST**



National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Space Grant College and Fellowship Training Program
Cooperative Agreement #: NNX10AN23H



Higher Education Graduate Research Opportunity Fellowship

Who is eligible? U.S. citizens who are full-time Masters or PhD students enrolled in (or admitted to) a full-time graduate 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.

NOTE: Students who recently submitted applications in response to the Space Grant Graduate Fellowship Program solicitation may apply for this opportunity.

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.

CLARIFICATION PROVIDED BELOW:

Award Amount: \$21,000 for the academic year. Graduate awardees will receive \$10,500 in federal dollars with a **1:1 match requirement from their campus. The source for match funding must be identified on the cover sheet (i.e. in-kind, industry, campus).** Note that each cover sheet and budget must be agreed upon and signed by the student, faculty mentor, and the campus Sponsored Programs Office and/or the Business Officer overseeing the financial administration of these programs. This Higher Education Fellowship may be fulfilled as a **part time** fellowship for the full annual year with the required match being provided through non-cash match (i.e. faculty time/lab space, etc.). The student will need to sign off and acknowledge that he/she will be engaged on a part-time basis and only receive the \$10,500 with the campus providing non-cash match. Alternatively, if the mentor is seeking to support a student for a **full-time** fellowship, the mentor/faculty/department will need to come up with a non-federal source of actual dollars in the amount of \$10,500 that will go to the student in order to provide the full \$21,000 to the student. Questions may be directed to Alice Ward at alice_ward@nshe.nevada.edu

Deadline: Monday, October 12, 2015, 5pm PST

Award Period: Fall 2015 semester through Spring 2016 semester

I. INTRODUCTION:

This Higher Education – Graduate Research Opportunity Fellowship 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. These projects should be 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.

This award is for \$21,000 for the academic year. Graduate awardees will receive \$10,500 in federal dollars with a 1:1 match requirement from the campus. The source for match funding must be identified on the cover sheet (i.e. in-kind, industry, campus).

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 is not accepted.* (Students selected as Space Grant Fellows or Scholars and faculty who receive direct support 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 need not be United States citizens.)
- Enrolled in (or admitted) in 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 on Monday October 12, 2015.** 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) are articulate and succinct 3) demonstrates a strong academic record in STEM 4) relates to a NASA scientific goal and/or interest.

IV. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND INSTRUCTIONS:

Award Information

- These funds are awarded as fellowships which require a 1:1 (non-federal) match. Funding 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.
- Since 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.
- 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 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's/participant's future education/career plans.
3. It is possible that awardees will be invited to prepare and present a poster 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. Some travel funding will likely be made available for students to attend these meetings – depending on the location.

Proposal Preparation Instructions

Each application starts with a survey form that must be submitted electronically through the online application (a link to this survey form is provided at the end of this solicitation). In addition, please submit the rest of your application material in a single pdf to nvspacegrant@nshe.nevada.edu. See the required materials listed below. **If an applicant**

does not receive confirmation that his/her proposal was received, please contact Alice Ward or Stephanie Borene at nvspacegrant@nshe.nevada.edu to verify receipt of proposal by the NSHE Sponsored Programs Office.

As a single pdf, submit items (2-8) below to nvspacegrant@nshe.nevada.edu to complete your application submission:

1. **ONLINE APPLICATION (survey form)** - All applicants will need to complete the online application at:
<https://www.research.net/r/higheredgraduateresearchopportunityfellowship>
2. **COVER PAGE & BUDGET**– All applicants, their mentor and Sponsored Programs Office (SPO) or Business Officer must sign the cover **page noting a part-time or full-time fellowship**, the source of non-federal match funding. The budget at the end of this document must be signed off on only by the SPO/Business Officer.
3. **RESEARCH PROPOSAL** - Provide a 3-4 page description of your proposed research program and its relationship to NASA's interests. Citations are not included in the page limit.
4. **PUBLICATION PLAN** – Please provide a brief document describing your publication plan. (Those who receive an award must complete a minimum of one publication which must be submitted, or prepared for submission.)
5. **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 of all of your transcripts.
6. **LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT/RECOMMENDATION (2-3)** - Letters of recommendation are required. One letter must be from the applicant’s advisor who will serve as mentor for the proposed graduate research 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 emailed - separate from the application - directly from the person writing the letter by the deadline.***
7. **CV or BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH** A Biosketch/CV should be completed and included in the PDF file. A template is available at:
<http://www.nvspacegrant.org/forms.html>
8. **STATEMENT OF INTEREST**- The SOI provides the applicant an opportunity to introduce himself/herself and provide information that describes why he/she would be a good candidate for this NASA funded opportunity. The SOI must be no

more than four pages. 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:

- a. Education and Career interests, experiences, and goals. Please be thorough but succinct in responding to each point that follows:
- b. When and what stimulated your interest to pursue a STEM career?
- c. 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
- d. Describe your technical and educational experiences and how these experiences have prepared you for a fellowship.
- e. Relevant work, other scholarships, academic awards and honors (please identify the funding agencies where applicable and be specific in listing amounts/award time period of all recent/current awards.)
- f. Extracurricular activities, such as clubs, scientific societies, science team activities, tutoring, volunteer, etc.
- g. If you have already formed a collaboration with a mentor for this fellowship and have decided upon a proposed project, please describe the project. How will this fellowship impact the applicant's future goals? How is this of relevance to the needs/interests of Nevada and NASA?

V. PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA:

These Graduate Research Opportunity Fellowships proposals will be reviewed and selected based on a statewide merit-based review. The screening and selection process will include review by a committee 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

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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. Quality of proposed publication plan
8. Quality of the career goals and interests statement
9. Quality and feasibility of the research proposal and it's relevancy to NASA

VI. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION, AWARD NOTIFICATION AND TIMELINE:

Submission of Proposals

After completing the online survey application form, additional materials (as outlined in this announcement) for each proposal must be submitted as a single PDF document to via email at nvspacegrant@nshe.nevada.edu by the application deadline of Monday, October 12, 2015 at 5pm PST.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted. The email subject line and the pdf application document should be specific to each applicant and read:

Last Name_First Name_NASA HIGHER EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP 2015-2016

Example: (Jones_Tom_NASA HIGHER EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP 2015-2016)

Notification

Letters of award and regret will be sent to all applicants after a statewide review has been conducted.

Funds Distribution (PLEASE NOTE)!!!

Unless otherwise agreed upon, this is a full annual fellowship for the fall and spring semesters, starting on the first day of the fall semester and ending on the last day of the spring semester. This will provide as much time as possible for the Fellow to complete the research project. For those participating in a semester only – the period of performance is initiated with the first day of the semester and ends with the last day of the semester.

It is anticipated that the Space Grant application process may not be finalized until after student tuition and fees are due. Therefore, receipt of this award should not be relied upon to pay for student costs "up front". Instead, the disbursement of this fellowship, will likely occur after the tuition/fees deadline has passed. If awarded, these funds should be expected as a reimbursement for tuition and fees already paid out by the student.

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Obligation to the Government

Applicants for the award will be considered without regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, national origin and/or physical impairment.

Contacts

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

<p>NVSGC Program Coordinator Stephanie Borene 5550 W Flamingo, Ste. A2 Las Vegas, NV 89103-0135 stephanie_borene@nshe.nevada.edu 702-522-7081</p>	<p>NV NASA Project Administrator Alice Ward 5550 W Flamingo, Ste. A2 Las Vegas, NV 89103-0135 alice_ward@nshe.nevada.edu 702-522-7078</p>
<p>NV NASA Project Director Dr. Lynn Fenstermaker lynn.fenstermaker@dri.edu</p>	

VII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Any written materials supported in part from this award shall acknowledge the NVSGC NASA Training Grant #NNX10AN23H.

Applications are not complete until both the online survey is submitted and the required application materials are received by our office as a single pdf document by the deadline. Email this to: nvspacegrant@nshe.nevada.edu no later than Monday, October 12, 2015 at 5pm PST.

For your convenience, the url for the online survey form is at:

<https://www.research.net/r/higheredgraduateresearchopportunityfellowship>