



Vermont Space Grant Consortium: Call for Proposals

GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS FOR AY2017-2018

Submission Deadline: Friday, March 17, 2017 @ 11:59 pm

The Vermont Space Grant Consortium (VTSGC) is pleased to announce a competition for Graduate Research Assistantships for a twelve-month period consisting of the 2017-2018 Academic Year and the Summer of 2018. This competition is open to U.S. graduate students enrolled in M.S. and Ph.D. students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines.¹

I. Program Overview

The goals of this program are two-fold: (1) help prepare the next generation of researchers in STEM disciplines; and (2) to provide research support for faculty working in areas that strongly align with new and continuing NASA research priorities and technology needs. Therefore, the proposal for a VTSGC Graduate Research Fellowship should be written as a collaborative effort by the faculty member and the graduate student. Officially, the award will be made to the student with the faculty advisor serving as principal investigator (PI). *As such, proposals for a student "To Be Named" will not be accepted.* The application should be tailored to show how the requested support for a specific, named student will advance the PI's research program in an area that is a NASA research priority. The faculty research project topic should have the potential to be nationally competitive for follow-on funding from NASA or a similar Federal agency through non-Space Grant or non-NASA EPSCoR funding mechanisms.

II. Eligibility

Per NASA requirements for the National Space Grant Program, graduate students funded by this competition **must be US citizens** and enrolled full-time in a graduate program within a STEM discipline. Female students, members of underrepresented groups in STEM disciplines, and/or persons with a disability are especially encouraged to apply. It is strongly suggested, but not mandatory, that the student will have completed the bulk of his/her formal course work requirements and thus be able to devote significant time to research.

Faculty investigators serving as supervisors will be full-time faculty in STEM disciplines working in a research area identified as a current NASA priority or area of interest.

III. Amount and Period of Support

Subject to the timely arrival of NASA annual funding installments, these awards will provide a graduate student stipend of up to \$26,500 for the twelve-month period consisting of the 2017-2018

¹ Note that the availability and number of these awards are subject to future NASA funding allocations.

Academic Year and the summer of 2018. The award also includes an amount of up to \$6,300 that can be applied towards tuition costs.

IV. The Proposal Packet

The completed proposal packet should include the following items:

1. **Signed Cover Page.** Use the form included with the call for proposals.
2. **Project Narrative.** A short description of the project (limit of four pages, exclusive of citations) including the role the student will play and any relevant prior work done by the student and/or the PI's research group.
3. **NASA Relevance.** A short section containing explicit evidence that the project is aligned with a new or continuing NASA research priority or technical need. For example, the PI may cite a current or pending NASA Research Announcement (NRA) or include an email of support from a NASA researcher to demonstrate NASA interest.
4. **Student Mentoring Plan.** A short description of how the student will be mentored.
5. **Student Resume.** A one-page resume for the student.
6. **Student Transcript.** A copy of the student's graduate transcript.

V. Electronic Application Procedure

All proposal applications must be submitted *electronically* to the Space Grant Office. The electronic submission must be made no later than 11:59 pm on Friday, March 17, 2017.

The proposal packet described in Section IV must be saved as a single PDF file and emailed to the Space Grant Office to Ms. Debra Fraser (dfraser1@uvm.edu) with CC to Director Darren Hitt (SG.Director@uvm.edu).

VI. Obligations Associated With Funding

1. This funding comes with the expectation that the PI receiving this award will submit a research grant proposal to NASA or another appropriate Federal agency for follow-on funding to sustain the project beyond the end of the award period.
2. The PI will also be required to provide written Progress Updates to the Space Grant Director during the award period as needed to comply with NASA reporting requests. *A Final Report will be due within thirty (30) days of the end of the award period.*

Please contact Prof. Darren Hitt, Director of the Vermont Space Grant Consortium (802-656-1429 or sg.director@uvm.edu) if further information is required.