



Vermont Space Grant Consortium: Call for Proposals

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS FOR AY2016-2017

Submission Deadline: Friday, March 18, 2016 @ 5:00 p.m.

The Vermont Space Grant Consortium (VSGC) is pleased to announce a competition for Graduate Research Assistantships for a twelve-month period consisting of the 2016-2017 Academic Year and the Summer of 2017. 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 VSGC Graduate Research Assistantship must be written by the faculty advisor as principal investigator (PI) and 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. *As such, proposals for a student "To Be Named" will not be accepted.* 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

Faculty Principal Investigators will be full-time faculty in STEM disciplines working in a research area identified as a current NASA priority or area of interest. Per NASA requirements for Space Grant, graduate students funded by this competition **must be US citizens** and enrolled full-time in a graduate program within a STEM discipline. 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 PI's are especially encouraged to propose awards for students who are women, members of underrepresented groups in STEM disciplines, or persons with a disability.

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 \$24,000 for a 12-month period consisting of the 2016-2017 Academic Year and the summer of 2017. The award also includes tuition for nine (9) credits per semester. Additional Graduate College fringe charges for medical benefits will also be covered by the VTSGC fellowship.

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

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 5:00 pm on Friday, March 18, 2016.

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 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.