

Request For Applications

Vermont Space Grant Consortium 2026 Vermont Intern Share Program

Released: December 22, 2025 Application Deadline: February 6, 2026 at 11:59 PM

BACKGROUND: A major goal of the Vermont Space Grant Consortium (VTSGC) is to build a strong STEM-focused workforce that meets the needs of our local emerging technology industries and our communities. To support this goal, the VTSGC invites applications for the Vermont Intern Share Program. The VTSGC will co-sponsor one intern hired by awarded Vermont industries who will be completing NASA-relevant work, providing resources to host a NASA-funded internship at their facility. Industry partners must propose a project on which a future intern will work, and this project must be strongly aligned with new or ongoing NASA research priorities or technology needs. The number of these awards is subject to the availability of NASA funding, and the amount of co-sponsorship will be half the rate of onsite NASA internships. For summer 2026, this rate is \$4,100 for high school or undergraduate interns and \$4,950 for graduate interns, and this funding must be used toward the company-specific stipend and benefits (if applicable) for the hired intern. At the time of release of this Call for Applications, it is expected that funding will be available to support up to 4 awards.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE: Eligible companies are those who are Industrial Affiliates of the VTSGC. For information on how to become a VTSGC Industrial Affiliate, please contact the VTSGC at the email provided below.

Eligible interns will be high school through graduate student or recently-graduated students who will be working on-site with the Industrial Affiliate. Support from VTSGC-based funding is restricted to <u>US citizens</u>, but otherwise, the Industrial Affiliate will have complete discretion over who they hire to work on the awarded project.

AREAS OF INTEREST AND NASA LINKAGE: Proposed internship projects or work must be in an area that is strongly aligned with a new or continuing NASA research priority or technology need, and the application must make an explicit connection with NASA along these lines. Current NASA priorities and existing projects can be explored here on the NASA Mission Directorates website. The work must also provide substantial professional and skill development for the student with the potential to improve and/or expand their career prospects.

OBLIGATIONS WITH AWARDS: Awarded Industrial Affiliates will be required to submit contact information for the hired intern before the internship begins. Interns will be required to (1)



complete a demographic survey at the start of their internship and (2) provide a final report within 30 days of the end of the award period. The Industrial Affiliate will also be required to provide a brief report within 30 days of the end of the award period. Additional research progress update(s) may be requested during the award period to address NASA reporting requirements.

Awarded proposals will have access to their funding April 1 through August 31, 2026. The internship must be conducted during this timeframe with final reports due by September 30, 2026.

REVIEW CRITERIA: Selected projects will be in areas that strongly align with NASA priorities and technology needs, will engage the hired intern in work critical to the company's mission, and will have a strong potential to provide meaningful professional and skill development for the intern. Successful proposals will clearly describe what hands-on and engaged work the intern will complete.

Applications responsive to this call will be reviewed by VTSGC staff who will assess the strengths and weaknesses of the application in each of the following domains: overall impact for the intern, overall impact for the company, and alignment with NASA. Applicants will receive written critiques regardless of funding status.

BUDGET AND MATCHING FUNDS: A brief budget must be part of the application package. This budget will clearly state the stipend rates and benefits (if applicable) for internships at the company. Matching funds are required for proposals to be eligible for the competition. Funding requested from the VTSGC must be matched 1:1. Common sources of matching funds include remaining internship stipend amounts and designated in-kind effort from internship mentors.

APPLICATION PACKET: The completed application packet must include the following items:

- 1. Cover page (using template provided at https://www.uvm.edu/spacegrant/vtsgc-intern-share-program)
- 2. Project narrative (limit: 1 page, exclusive of references if any)
- 3. NASA alignment (limit: 1 page)
- 4. Budget detail, including matching plan

Items 2–4 must be typed and single-spaced using at least a 12-point font size. Applications that do not adhere to this requirement will not be considered.

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION PROCEDURE: All applications must be submitted electronically to the VTSGC/Vermont NASA EPSCoR Office no later than 11:59 PM on February 06, 2026. The application packet must be saved as a single PDF file and emailed to <u>SG.Director@uvm.edu</u> using the subject line "2026 Vermont Intern Share Application".



CONTACT: Please contact Bernard F. Cole, Director of VTSGC/Vermont NASA EPSCoR (<u>bfcole@uvm.edu</u>), with any questions regarding this grant program.