

Vermont Space Grant Consortium  
Call for Proposals



**GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS  
FOR FY22**

Submission Deadline:  
January 1, 2021 at 11:59 PM

The Vermont Space Grant Consortium (VTSGC) is pleased to announce a competition for Graduate Fellowships for the twelve month period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. This competition is open to U.S. graduate students enrolled in M.S. and Ph.D. programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines within the State of Vermont.<sup>1</sup>

**I. Program Overview**

The goals of this program are two-fold: (1) to help prepare the next generation of researchers in STEM disciplines; and (2) to provide the graduate student a research experience that strongly aligns with NASA research priorities and technology needs. The proposal for a VTSGC Graduate Fellowship shall be written *by the graduate student* with collaborative support by a faculty mentor. Awards will be made *directly to the student*.

**II. Eligibility**

Per NASA requirements for the National Space Grant Program, graduate students funded by this competition must be U.S. 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. Faculty serving as research mentors will be full-time faculty in STEM disciplines.

**III. Amount and Period of Support**

Subject to the timely arrival of NASA annual funding installments, these awards will provide the graduate fellow a stipend for a maximum of 12 months anticipated to span from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. For University of Vermont graduate fellows, the projected 12-month stipend is \$31,000. The award also includes up to \$12,294<sup>2</sup> for tuition costs and \$2,694<sup>3</sup> for health insurance. For non-UVM graduate fellows attending another Vermont institution, the (projected) total amount of the stipend/funding is \$46,000.

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<sup>1</sup>The availability and number of these awards are subject to future NASA funding.

<sup>2</sup>Amount is based on 18 credits at current in-state tuition rates. This amount could change.

<sup>3</sup>Health insurance costs have not been set for FY22. This amount could change.

#### **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** (limit of four pages, exclusive of citations). A narrative providing a description of the project to be undertaken, its significance, methods and expected outcomes. Include any relevant prior work done by the student and/or the faculty mentor's research group.
3. **NASA Relevance.** (limit of one page, exclusive of any external letters/emails) Provide evidence that the proposed project is aligned with a new or continuing NASA research priority or technical need. For example, the applicant 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 Resume** (limit of two pages).
5. **Student Academic Transcript.** Established graduate students shall provide a copy of their graduate transcript; first year graduate students shall also provide a copy of their undergraduate transcript. An unofficial transcript is acceptable.

#### **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 **January 1, 2021**.

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 Bernard Cole ([sg.director@uvm.edu](mailto:sg.director@uvm.edu)).

#### **VI. Obligations Associated with Funding**

Recipients of the fellowship, in collaboration with their faculty mentor, will 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. Students will also have to complete a Vermont Space Grant Student Profile Form. This information will be used to complete a mandated report for the NASA Office of Education.

Please contact Prof. Bernard Cole, Director of the Vermont Space Grant Consortium (802-656-0054 or [sg.director@uvm.edu](mailto:sg.director@uvm.edu)) if further information is required.