

ALABAMA SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM

Fellowship Program

Fellowships for Graduate Students

Application Package



Consortium Members:

Alabama A&M University
Auburn University
The University of Alabama
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
The University of South Alabama
Tuskegee University

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Fellowship Program

Program Summary

A Program to Encourage Students at Alabama Research Universities to Pursue Graduate Work in Professional Aerospace Fields.

The Alabama Space Grant Consortium (ASGC), as a participant in the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program (NSGCFP), invites applicants for NASA Space Grant Graduate Fellowships for study in fields related to space at one of its seven member institutions.

Space related fields include any academic discipline or field of study (including the physical, natural, and biological sciences; engineering; education; economics; business; sociology; behavioral sciences; computer science; communications; law; international affairs; and public administration) that is concerned with or likely to improve the understanding, assessment, development and utilization of space.

A significant goal of the NSGCFP is to encourage interdisciplinary training and research, to train professionals for careers in aerospace science, technology and allied fields, and to encourage individuals from underrepresented groups to consider careers in aerospace fields.

Successful applicants will be individuals whose proposed research or field of study, and career interests are coincident with NASA's aerospace, science and technology programs. Fellowship awards will be based on academic excellence, the quality of the proposed research program or plan of study, the quality of the interdisciplinary approach to achieving the objectives of the proposed program, the merit of the utilization of a NASA field center in carrying out their objectives, the prospects for completion of the project within the allotted time, and an assessment of the applicant's motivation towards an aerospace career.

Fellowship awardees will be required to have their faculty advisor submit a final report, participate in science education outreach activities and conduct an extramural experience at a NASA field center during the fellowship year.

Individual graduate fellowships, up to \$24,000 per year, will be awarded annually and may be renewable following a competitive proposal review each year, with an individual limit of 36 months (3 years). Applications for the Graduate Fellowship Program may be submitted at any point during the applicant's graduate career or prior to completion of the undergraduate degree.

All fellowship applicants must be U.S. citizens, full-time students, sponsored by a consortium member institution, and have at least a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Application forms are available through the campus director consortium office or on-line.

General Information

Eligibility

Applicants must be full-time, graduate students who are U.S. citizens, and must be currently enrolled in a program of study at one of the seven ASGC universities or show evidence of having met the graduate entrance requirements of the member institution in which the applicant proposes to enroll. Applicants must have a minimum grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Additionally, applicants must have the approval of (a) a faculty advisor from the consortium member institution, (b) the involved department chair, and (c) the graduate dean, (4) present a proposed research plan related to space research, (5) propose a multidisciplinary plan and course of study, (6) include in the research plan an extramural experience at a NASA field center during the fellowship year, (7) plan to be involved in ASGC outreach activities, (8) not receive funds from any source for work other than that defined by the student's approved proposed research and plan of study for which the award is made. *[Supplements to the student's award may be made by the home university using funds from any source, provided that the amount and source are disclosed to the ASGC program office prior to the student's annual beginning date, and provided that no service or work is required of the student for this supplement, other than that pertaining to his or her approved research and study plan. Please contact the ASGC office if there are questions about this policy.]* (9) intend to pursue career interests congruent with NASA's aerospace, science and technology programs.

Application Submission

Applications may be submitted prior to completion of the senior undergraduate year or at any time during the applicant's graduate career. Beginning graduate students must show evidence of having met the entrance requirements of the member institution in which they propose to enroll, including GRE scores. Graduate students at a member institution may apply for an award at that institution or at another member institution. Full-time graduate students from a college or university that is not a member of the consortium are eligible to apply for awards if they are able to meet the entrance requirements of the consortium member university at which the applicant proposes to study.

Applicants should submit seven packets (one original plus six copies) of all materials (cover sheet with signatures, abstract, description of research, schedule, budget, personal references, brief student resume, official transcript and copy of GRE scores) by March 1st to the campus director where the applicant expects to undertake studies for a degree program and carry out the research program or plan of study. After preliminary screening by the campus director, applications for final consideration will be forwarded by the campus director to the Consortium Director for review by the ASGC Management Team. Successful applications will be announced in mid-April. Proposed starting dates for new awards will generally be expected to coincide with normal semester, quarter, or other accepted academic term starting dates. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Renewal Application

Graduate fellowships may be renewed for two additional years. Competitive proposal review is required for renewal of graduate fellowships for a maximum fellowship award of 36 months. Requests for renewal are to be submitted to the appropriate campus directors by March 1st. Applicants should submit seven packets (one original plus six copies) of all materials with renewal applications. Renewals are not automatic. In addition to the proposal requirements, renewal applications should also include a brief statement outlining the progress and status of the research program or plan of study, documentation of accomplishments, any changes from the original proposed research, current official transcript and two current letters of recommendation from faculty personnel. The starting date for renewals is on the anniversary of the most recent reward.

Awards

Awards are made initially for one 12-month period and may be renewed annually for a maximum total award of 36 months (3 years). The total Space Grant funds awarded per student will not exceed \$24,000 for 12 months. This award will include \$18,000 for student stipend and up to \$6,000 for tuition/student research/travel allowance. Awardees must have their faculty advisor submit a final report, participate in an extramural experience at a NASA field center and conduct science education outreach activities. Fellows will be expected to devote full-time to graduate study and research during the tenure of the fellowship. Awards are subject to availability of NASA funds.

Content and Format of Proposals

Cover Sheet

A proposal cover sheet (attached) must be filled out, signed by the student, faculty advisor, appropriate campus director and the graduate dean and submitted with each copy of the application package. This cover sheet may be reproduced as necessary. Applications will not be processed without the appropriate approval signatures.

Attachments

Each application package must be submitted with a proposal which should be routed through the student's Office of Sponsored Programs/ Research Administration Office at their respective university. Proposals shall be written by students and not by faculty or professional advisors. They will be evaluated solely on the basis of material submitted with the proposal package by the stated due date. Late submissions will not be considered.

Abstract

The abstract, not to exceed 400 words, must describe the objectives of the proposed research program or plan of study and the methodology to be used.

Description of Proposed Research

A full statement that identifies and relates the key elements of the proposed research and/or plan of study is required. The statement should describe the background, relevance and objectives of the proposed research or study. A few technical references may be included in this section. The statement should reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the studies necessary to the understanding of complex aerospace issues. An extramural, aerospace-related work-study experience must be included.

Schedule of Target Dates

The starting and completion dates for the proposed research program or plan of study, including the expected date for completion of the formal degree program, should be identified realistically. Any time expected to be spent at a NASA facility, including the required extramural experience, should be taken into consideration in establishing the target dates.

Budget

A 12-month budget must be prepared and should include the following:

- The \$18,000 student stipend for 12 months
- Expenditure plan for up to \$6,000 to include tuition and/or student travel/research allowance

An expense plan for the required extramural experience must be approved by the Consortium Program Office and the costs must not exceed the expenditure limits stated above. In a request for renewal, include in the budget plan the amount of any unused funds remaining from previous awards.

Personal References

The faculty advisor must provide a recommendation as to the acceptability of the student for the program, a clear statement of the advisor's willingness to supervise the student, and the nature of any past or present experience with the student. A second letter of recommendation must also be provided. The letters should be addressed to the appropriate campus director.

Student Resume

Brief resumes of the applicant and the faculty advisor must be included with the proposal. The student's resume should include a short summary of education, training and accomplishments.

Official Transcript & GRE Scores

One original official copy of the applicant's most current transcript and a copy of GRE scores must be attached; additional transcripts may be photocopied.

Reporting and Administrative Requirements

Faculty Advisors:

A report on the student's academic progress must be submitted in writing by the faculty advisor to the Consortium Program Office within thirty days of completion of the student's study and research program. Information to be furnished in the report includes the degree granted, the employment or career plans of the student (i.e., higher education, faculty, administrative, private industry, teaching (K-12), NASA, non-NASA federal agency, state/local government, non-profit organization, military, consulting, other), and other important results of the student's experience, e.g., awards and honors, research performed, reports or articles published, thesis, etc. The report should also briefly summarize the student's NASA interaction, and his/her outreach program.

Students:

➤ *NASA Extramural Experience*

An extramural NASA experience is required sometime during the fellowship year. The details are to be worked out with the faculty advisor and NASA lab facility where the student plans to participate in a research activity. It is advisable that a NASA contact be found prior to submission of the fellowship proposal.

Names and locations of NASA field centers are:

- Ames Research Center - Moffet Field, CA
- Dryden Flight Research Center - Edwards, CA
- Glenn Research Center - Cleveland, OH
- Goddard Space Flight Center - Greenbelt, MD
- Jet Propulsion Laboratory - Pasadena, CA
- Johnson Space Center - Houston, TX
- Kennedy Space Center - Kennedy Space Ctr., FL
- Langley Research Center - Hampton, VA
- Marshall Space Flight Center - Huntsville, AL
- Stennis Space Center - Stennis, MS

➤ *Science Education Outreach*

Fellows are expected to be involved in ASGC outreach activities. Proposed activities may take advantage of local opportunities and should involve the student's transmitting his/her knowledge and enthusiasm of science, math or technology to children or general audiences. These activities will differ from campus to campus and a specific assignment will be made after consultation with the ASGC campus director.

Disposition of Unused Funds

If a student is unable to complete their academic program in the year of the award, a prorated share of fellowship funds must be returned to the ASGC Program Office at UAH and their fellowship will be terminated. Fellowship funds are not transferable.

Inquiries

Questions concerning the preparation and submission of applications and the administration of this program may be directed to the appropriate campus director or to the ASGC Program Office at UAH.

Equal Opportunity

Applicants for the Graduate Fellowship Program will be considered for appointment as NASA Space Grant Fellows without regard to race, creed, color, age or handicap.

Acknowledgement

Any written materials supported in part from this award shall acknowledge the ASGC NASA Training Grant #NNG05GE80H.



Alabama Space Grant Consortium
NASA Space Grant Fellowship Program
Graduate Proposal Cover Sheet

Due by March 1st • For U.S. Citizens Only • Submit Proposal/Application to Appropriate Campus Director

Personal Information:

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
(Last) (First) (MI)

Place of Birth: _____ INS # (if applicable): _____

Local Address: _____ Phone: _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Perm. Address: _____ Phone: _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Email Address: _____ Social Security #: _____

Educational Information:

High School Name: _____ County/City/State/Zip: _____

Undergraduate University: _____ GPA (4.0 Scale): _____ Major/Minor: _____

Graduate GPA (4.0 Scale): _____ GRE: Analytical _____ Verbal _____ Quantitative _____

Target Degree: _____ Discipline Major/Minor: _____

Expected Graduation Date: _____

Faculty Advisor Name: _____ Dept. _____

Faculty Advisor Address: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Submission: ☐ New ☐ Renewal Proposed Starting/Renewal Date: _____ Funding Requested: _____

Area of Study/Proposed Thesis or Dissertation Topic: _____

Consortium Campus of Proposal/Application Submission (check only one block):

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| ☐ Alabama A&M University | ☐ The University of Alabama at Birmingham | ☐ The University of South Alabama |
| ☐ Auburn University | ☐ The University of Alabama in Huntsville | ☐ Tuskegee University |
| ☐ The University of Alabama | | |

Proposed NASA Field Center: _____ NASA Contact: _____

Demographic Information (Voluntary):

In order to determine the degree to which members of the diverse segments of the population are reached by this announcement, so that all persons are afforded an equal opportunity for consideration, ASGC requests that you check the appropriate blocks:

Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female Disability: ☐ No ☐ Yes
Ethnicity: ☐ African American ☐ American Indian ☐ Asian ☐ Hispanic/Latino ☐ Caucasian ☐ Other _____

Certification:

I certify that I am a U.S. citizen and am or will be a full-time graduate student at one of the seven ASGC universities. I will comply with the ASGC fellowship reporting and administrative requirements (faculty advisor final report, conducting an extramural experience at NASA and be involved in science education outreach activities).

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Campus Director Signature: _____ Graduate Dean Signature: _____

Advisor Signature: _____ Research Admin. Signature: _____

Management and Administration

The Alabama Space Grant Consortium is composed of seven Ph.D. granting universities in the state of Alabama: Alabama A&M University, Auburn University, The University of Alabama, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, The University of South Alabama and Tuskegee University. The Alabama Space Grant Program is administered by The University of Alabama in Huntsville, a Space Grant College.

The Consortium Director and a Campus Director on each of the seven campuses constitute the Consortium Management Team. The names, addresses, and phone numbers are as follows:

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Director

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Campus Directors:

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