



NASA FLORIDA SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM

Program Announcement for 2024-2025 Funding
Summary

NASA FSGC MASTERS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Purpose: To provide a prestigious instrument to reward and attract the best and the brightest of US citizens to space-related master's studies and careers and to enhance cooperation among FSGC-affiliated university faculty and peers in industry, government and private laboratories.

Who may apply: Faculty from FSGC-affiliated universities are invited to nominate U. S. citizen students admitted to their master's programs.

For: Each Fellow will receive an AY fellowship stipend of \$10,000 for full-time master's study. The award shall be for a period of one year. University cost-sharing or supplement is strongly encouraged, but not required. **Since this is a fellowship, indirect costs are not allowed.**

Application Deadline:

Notice of Intent: Notice-of-intent, including a generalized proposal summary of no more than 250 words, should be emailed to fsgc@ucf.edu by February 29, 2024. Proposals are due by March 29, 2024.

Sign up and apply online: Sign up for an FSGC online account at www.floridaspacegrant.org and upload your proposal along with the letters, resume, transcripts and GRE scores (if applicable). You simply have to provide an e-mail address and create a username and password. The email address should be your university email address.

FSGC WWW Home page: <http://www.floridaspacegrant.org>

DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE FSGC PROGRAM OFFICE: (EMAILS PREFERRED)

NASA Florida Space Grant Consortium
12354 Research Parkway
Partnership 1 Building, Room 218
Orlando, FL 32826-0650
Tel # 407-823-6177

FSGC Program Office

Dr. Jaydeep Mukherjee, FSGC Director

E-mail: fsgc@ucf.edu

Program Announcement for 2024-25 funding

NASA FSGC MASTERS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

PURPOSE, SCOPE, & TERMS OF THE AWARD

The FSGC Masters Fellowship Program provides a prestigious instrument to reward and attract the best and the brightest US citizens to space-related careers. The program is also designed to enhance cooperation among FSGC-affiliated university faculty and peers in industry, government and private laboratories. Accordingly, each Fellow will receive an Academic Year 2024-25 fellowship stipend of \$10,000 for full-time masters students. The award cannot be renewed. **Please note that since this award is a fellowship, indirect costs are not allowed.**

The award shall be for a period of one year for master's students (subject to availability of funds). A student may be nominated for a fellowship funded partially by the university and partially by NASA, or totally by NASA. The specifics of such potential shared funding must be set forth in detail in the budget request. The support from the university must be in cash, it can derive from any source (including research but not teaching assistantships), and it must be guaranteed by the university conditioned on satisfactory performance by the Fellow.

The university may, at its discretion, waive all or part of the tuition. The cash value of waived tuition shall be stated in the budget. Full tuition waiver is strongly encouraged. During the academic year the fellow may accept no employment other than that stated in the above paragraph and shall be engaged in full time study. **Any participant receiving support under the Masters Fellowship program may not concurrently hold another Federal fellowship or traineeship.**

Science Education Outreach

Florida Space Grant Fellows are expected to be involved in FSGC outreach activities. These activities will differ from campus to campus and a specific assignment will be made after consultation with the FSGC representative at that institute.

General Conditions

The FSGC is particularly interested in increasing the participation in graduate education and research of women, minority, and disabled students. Nominations of students who are members of these groups are particularly solicited.

Throughout, "master's study" shall mean enrollment in a program leading to the award of M.S, or equivalent.

The fellowship program funds earn no overhead.

Eligible Institutions: Awards may be made for master's study at any of the FSGC-Affiliated Universities.

Eligible Individuals: Any US citizen, admitted to or enrolled in one of the Consortium-affiliated university's space-related master's programs with Thesis options. Permanent residents are not eligible for this program.

Eligible Fields: All nominees shall be enrolled in master's with the intent of pursuing "space" research broadly defined to include aeronautics and astronautics, remote sensing, atmospheric sciences, and other fundamental sciences and technologies relying on and/or directly impacting space technological resources. Included within this definition are space science, earth observing science, space life sciences, space medicine, space policy, law, and engineering, astronomy and astrophysics, space facilities and applications, and space education. **All proposals must be aligned with one or more of the 4 NASA's Mission Directorates (Appendix A).**

Anticipated Budget: The Consortium anticipates the funding of **5 to 6 Masters fellowship** for Academic Year 2024-25.

Nomination deadline: Notice-of-intent (NOI) sent to fsgc@ucf.edu by February 29, 2024. Proposals due by March 29, 2024. Notice of intent should list the proposal or project title, student and advisor's name, and the Mission Directorate that closely aligns to the topic. The NOI should also include an abstract not exceeding 500 words. The NOI is not mandatory.

Performance Period: The performance period cannot be for more than 1 year. The starting date can be as early as May 1, 2024. The ending date cannot be beyond May 8, 2025

Anticipated announcement of Awards: April 30, 2025 (subject to availability of funds).

Evaluation of Nominations: Appointment will be made upon recommendation of the fellowship panel. The panel will consider all customary measures of academic achievement and predictors of future academic success, relevance of the student's long term goals to a space-related career, and alignment with one or more NASA's Mission Directorates (see Appendix A). Nominees with Undergraduate GPAs less than 3.5 are not likely to be competitive. Participation by minority, female and disabled graduate students is encouraged. Universities are expected to make diligent affirmative action efforts to identify appropriate nominees of diverse backgrounds. Diversity of fellows will be considered in the award of grants when evaluations based on the above-stated criteria indicate substantively equal candidate merit.

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

All nominations shall be made by a Consortium-affiliated university on behalf of a student(s) enrolled in or admitted to a masters degree program in an eligible field. Each Nomination package shall include:

1. The nominee's CV including a brief chronological summary of all higher educational study (including GPAs and Class Standing, if known) and professional employment. The CV should identify the nominee's citizenship and list all publications, honors, etc.
2. Essay outlining his/her educational and career goals (limit 1 page).
3. Essay outlining the technical aspects of the proposed research (limit 2 pages)
3. Letters of recommendation from the following:
 - a) Chairman of the department in which the student has been admitted for or is enrolled for masters studies. This letter shall include a certification of the authenticity of supporting documents. It should identify the student's dissertation advisor, if known. The letter should identify the specific department and/or mentor, if possible, and describe the nature of the professional relation between the traineeship mentor and the academic department and/or student's (potential) dissertation advisor.
 - b) Two other professional letters of reference.
4. Copies of all higher education transcripts.
5. The nominee is encouraged to append any publications, special project reports, etc., related to a research effort that reflects his/her scholarly work and research potential.
6. Submit budget for AY 2024-25. The requested funds from NASA FSGC shall be \leq \$10,000. The "Total Stipend" from all sources shall be \geq \$10,000 if university cost-share, supplements, or fee waiver is proposed. In that case, include a brief narrative specifying quantitative details.

Proposers are requested to provide a notice-of-intent to FSGC, including a generalized proposal summary of no more than 500 words, to fsgc@ucf.edu by February 29, 2024. Please include a title, the faculty advisor name and the student's name in the summary along with the NASA Mission Directorate to which the project is aligned.

Application Procedure:

In order to upload a proposal and/or letter of recommendation, one must first register for an FSGC online account at www.floridaspacegrant.org . One simply has to provide a university e-mail address and create a username and password. *The email address must be an university email address.* The complete and signed proposal (main proposal and signed cover page) must be uploaded to the Florida Space Grant Consortium website. The proposal must be a *single pdf file*. Letters of recommendation may be submitted separately via email to fsgc@ucf.edu or via the website.

Hardcopies are not required.

Performance Standards and Reporting Requirements:

Final Reports covering the academic year 2023-24 must be submitted within 30 days after the end date. The final report (not more than three pages) is due within one month of the end of the grant. The report must include the technical work done because of the award, presentations at any conferences or workshop. Please include a list of publications because of this fellowship.

All publications should acknowledge the support of NASA through the Florida Space Grant Consortium. Copies of all publications resulting from the grant should be sent to the FSGC.

Presentation of Research: For approved projects, the grant program sponsors may coordinate with Principal Investigators to submit their final reports or abstracts for presentation and publication at upcoming Space Congress events and other space-related conferences. FSGC may establish a special seminar or conference where all funded research will be reported.

**A Proposal submitted to NASA Florida Space Grant Consortium
For the AY 2024-25 NASA FSGC MASTERS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

Proposal Title: _____

Nominator's Name and Email: _____

Nominees's Name: _____

Department/University: _____

Address: _____

Nominator's Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Budget Request: [See page 2, ¶1 and page 3, item 6 for instructions.]

STIPEND REQUEST

<u>NASA</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
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Please identify which category is applicable to your project (check one that is most appropriate):

- Science Mission Directorate (SMD)
- Human Exploration and Operations (HEO)
- Space Technology (ST)
- Aeronautics (ARMD)

Beginning Date: _____ **Ending Date:** _____

(Signature) Nominator

(Signature) Department Head

Name:

Name:

Title:

Title:

Date:

Date:

(Signature) University Official*

Name

Title:

Date:

The University certifies the authenticity of the supporting documents and of the commitment to the institutional fund matching for the fellowship.

Appendix A. Strategic Framework for NASA

I. NASA Mission Directorates

NASA's Mission to pioneer the future in space exploration, scientific discovery, and aeronautics research, draws support from four Mission Directorates, each with a specific responsibility.

- Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD): Research conducted by ARMD directly benefits today's air transportation system, the aviation industry, and the passengers and businesses who rely on aviation every day. ARMD scientists, engineers, programmers, test pilots, facilities managers and strategic planners are focused on aviation's future. They design, develop and test advanced technologies that will make aviation much more environmentally friendly, maintain safety in more crowded skies, and ultimately transform the way we fly. NASA's aeronautics research is primarily conducted at four NASA centers: Ames Research Center and Armstrong Flight Research Center in California, Glenn Research Center in Ohio, and Langley Research Center in Virginia (<https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/armd/>)
- The Science Mission Directorate (SMD) The Science Mission Directorate (SMD) is an organization where discoveries in one scientific discipline have a direct route to other areas of study. This flow is something extremely valuable and is rare in the scientific world. NASA Science missions circle the Earth, the Sun, the Moon, Mars, and many other destinations within our Solar System, including spacecraft that look out even further into our universe. (<https://science.nasa.gov/>)
- The Human Exploration and Operations (HEO)
Please note that NASA has organized its Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate into two areas: Exploration Systems Development (<https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/exploration-systems-development>) and Space Operations (<https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/space-operations-mission-directorate>).

The Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate defines and manages systems development for programs critical to NASA's Artemis program and planning for NASA's Moon to Mars exploration approach. ESDMD manages the human exploration system development for lunar orbital, lunar surface, and Mars exploration.

The Space Operations Mission Directorate maintains a continuous human presence in space for the benefit of people on Earth. The programs within the directorate are the heart of NASA's humans space exploration efforts, enabling Artemis, commercial space, science, and other agency missions through communication, launch services, research capabilities, and crew support.

- Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD). Technology drives exploration and the space economy. NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD) aims to transform future missions while ensuring American leadership in aerospace. STMD develops, demonstrates, and transfers new space technologies that benefit NASA, commercial, and other government missions. <https://www.nasa.gov/space-technology-mission-directorate/>

Please visit each NASA organization website to find detailed information about current projects and current areas of interest.

II. NASA Research Areas of Interest

NASA research priorities are defined by the Mission Directorates—Aeronautics Research, Science, Human Exploration and Operations, and Space Technology. Each Mission Directorate covers a major area of the Agency’s research and technology development efforts. Research priorities for each of the Mission Directorates can be found at the following locations:

Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD)

Researchers responding to the ARMD should propose research that is aligned with one or more of the ARMD programs. Proposers are directed to the following:

- ARMD Programs: <https://www.nasa.gov/aeronautics/armd-solicitations/>

Science Mission Directorate (SMD)

Detailed information on SMD research priorities is available at the following URLs:

- NASA Science Strategy: <https://science.nasa.gov/about-us/science-strategy/>
- Web pages for scientists and engineers who plan to propose or have submitted a proposal to a research solicitation from the Science Mission Directorate. <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers>
- Funding Opportunities: Grant Solicitations <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/grant-solicitations>

Human Exploration and Operations (HEO) Mission Directorate

Please note that NASA has organized its Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate into two areas: Exploration Systems Development (<https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/exploration-systems-development>) and Space Operations (<https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/space-operations-mission-directorate>).

For exploration Systems Development programs, please go to <https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/exploration-systems-development> and scroll down to ESDMD Programs.

[For Space Operations programs, please go to https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/space-operations-mission-directorate](https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/space-operations-mission-directorate) and scroll down to Areas of Focus.

Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD)

For the Space Technology programs, please go to <https://www.nasa.gov/space-technology-mission-directorate/> and click on “Program and Initiatives”.

III. NASA’s Technology Transfer Program

NASA's Technology Transfer Program ensures that innovations developed for exploration and discovery are broadly available to the public, maximizing the benefit to the Nation.

<https://technology.nasa.gov/>

APPENDIX B

FSGC Affiliates

Universities and Colleges

- Bethune-Cookman University (Dr. Masood Poorandi) (poorandm@cookman.edu)
- Broward College (Dr. Rolando Branly) (rbranly@broward.edu)
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Dr. Sergey V. Drakunov) (drakunov@erau.edu)
- Eckerd College (Dr. Nazarré Merchant) (merchann@eckerd.edu)
- Florida Atlantic University (Dr. Frederick Bloetscher) (fbloetsc@fau.edu)
- Eastern Florida State College (Dr. Mevlut Guvendik) (guvendikm@easternflorida.edu)
- Florida Gulf Coast University (Dr. Michael Fauerbach) (mfauerba@fgcu.edu)
- Florida Institute of Technology (Dr. Tristan Fiedler) (fiedler@fit.edu)
- Florida International University (Dr. Berrin Tansel) (tanselb@fiu.edu)
- Florida Polytechnic University (Dr. Seyed Soltani) (ssoltani@floridapoly.edu)
- Florida State University (Dr. Alan Hanstein) (alan.hanstein@challengertlh.com)
- Florida A&M University (Dr. Charles Weatherford) (charles.weatherford@famu.edu)
- Miami Dade College (Dr. Carlos Genatios) (cgenatio@mdc.edu)
- University of Central Florida (Dr. Yunjun Xu) (Yunjun.Xu@ucf.edu)
- University of Florida (Dr. Josephine Allen) (jallen@mse.ufl.edu)
- University of Miami (Dr. Qingda Yang) (qdyang@miami.edu)
- University of North Florida (Dr. Nirmal Patel) (npatel@unf.edu)
- University of South Florida (Dr. Stephanie Carey) (scarey3@usf.edu)
- University of West Florida (Dr. Brad Regez) (bregez@uwf.edu)

Other Organizations

- Astronauts Memorial Foundation (Mr. Thad Altman) (taltman@amfcse.org)
- Kennedy Space Center (Ms. Patricia Gillis) (patricia.j.gillis@nasa.gov)
- Orlando Science Center (Ms. Jill Goddard) (JGoddard@OSC.ORG)
- Space Florida (Mr. Ronald Lau) (rlau@spaceflorida.gov)