

NEVADA SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM (NVSGC)  
SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

# 2017-2018 Undergraduate Scholarship Program



## Nevada NASA Space Grant Consortium NSHE STEM Undergraduate Students

NOTE: IMPORTANT CHANGE TO APPLICATION PROCESS.

While all NSHE undergraduate students are eligible to apply for the academic year Scholarship program, the application process is different for:

**Lower Division Students** (*those who have completed 59 or fewer semester credits overall*)  
and **Upper Division Students** (*those who have completed 60 or more semester credits overall*).

We anticipate awarding scholarships to both lower and upper division students in proportion to the number of applications that are received. Be sure to read the directions carefully, as those that do not submit the appropriate application information will not be considered.

**Announcement for undergraduate students enrolled in a full-time program at:**  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas; University of Nevada, Reno; Nevada State College; College of Southern Nevada; Great Basin College; Truckee Meadows Community College; or Western Nevada College

**Submission Deadline:**  
**Monday, February 6, 2017, 5pm PDT**



National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)  
Space Grant College and Fellowship Training Program  
Cooperative Agreement #: NNX15AI02H



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## **NV Space Grant Scholarship Opportunity**

**Who is eligible?** NSHE students who are **U.S. citizens and full-time undergraduate students** enrolled in a STEM program will be considered for either a fully immersed 2017 summer research program or the full annual year (Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semesters). Please note that when submitting an application, the applicant must indicate whether a summer or annual year scholarship period is selected. All participating students must be supervised by at least one NSHE faculty mentor; and maintain full-time enrollment status at their institution(s) throughout the scholarship period.

**Potential Project Areas:** Students engaged in any science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) area who are interested in teaming with a faculty mentor to do a NASA Space Grant project are encouraged to apply. For a full list of potential project areas, please see the full announcement. Helpful information including a link to a list of volunteer NSHE MENTORS is provided at the bottom of this announcement.

**Application Deadline:** 5:00 pm (PT) on Monday, February 6, 2017.

### **Scholarship Amount:**

- 1) \$4,000 will be competitively awarded (based on a statewide review) for either a 10 week period during the summer of 2017 or the 2017-2018 school year. Funds for academic year will be disbursed at the beginning of each semester for the duration of the scholarship period – pending the awardee’s maintained “good-standing” as a student at their institution and their mentor’s continued support and approval. Each awardee will be expected to use a portion of these funds to support travel costs to attend a Nevada meeting to present a poster or talk on their project.
- 2) **Award Period:** Summer 2017 or Fall 2017 through Spring 2018 semesters.

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

This opportunity is designed to support independently conceived research or hands-on-projects by NSHE undergraduate students in disciplines that will help advance the missions and goals of NASA. Scholarship projects should generate measurable results or advancements in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math (STEM) research that is relevant to NASA's science and technology goals.

## **II. ELIGIBILITY:**

### **Applicants must be:**

- Citizens of the United States of America; (Citizens of Puerto Rico, Washington DC, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Northern Marianas are considered U.S. citizens) Permanent residence status, green card, or student visa are not accepted. Students selected as Space Grant Scholars and faculty who receive direct support must be citizens of the United States. Faculty who are involved in the administration of the Space Grant activities at the state level and who are not compensated from the award funds need not be United States citizens.
- Enrolled in (or admitted) in a full-time undergraduate degree program at an NSHE institution. The degree program should be related to science and technology, which includes, but is not limited to, aeronautics, space science, engineering, computer science, physics, mathematics, STEM education and other related fields.

## **III. DEADLINE:**

The deadline for a complete application submission is 5:00 pm PT, on Monday, February 6, 2017. ONLY applications for which all materials have been received will be reviewed. Incomplete applications will NOT be reviewed. It is the obligation of each applicant to verify that all letters of recommendation have been sent and received. Students will be notified at the earliest possible date as to whether or not he/she has been selected to receive a NVSGC Scholarship in Nevada.

HELPFUL NOTE: An excellent submission will be one that 1) is responsive to the points and questions posed in this solicitation; 2) is articulate and succinct; 3) demonstrates a strong academic record in STEM; and 4) relates to a NASA scientific goal and/or interest.

## **IV. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Potential Project Areas:** Students engaged in any STEM area are encouraged to apply; however, fields specifically related to unmanned aerial systems, aeronautics (including high altitude balloon projects), planetary geology, astrochemistry, astrophysics, astrobiology, biodiversity/biology, new satellite data systems, remote sensing, sustainability, agricultural science, climate change, hydrological impacts under a changing climate, and STEM education are of particular interest.

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**Single or Group Projects:** It is acceptable for applications to come from two or more students who are conducting a complementary hands-on-project or research project that contributes to a larger faculty project; however, each application must be a unique effort by the student(s) and will be reviewed on its own merit; not the merit of the faculty project.

**Scholarship awardees must** conduct their projects under the guidance of a mentor. Students seeking a collaborative research experience may opt to engage with two or more mentors from different institutions. For example: In addition to having a “home-institution” mentor, students may include Co-Mentors at DRI, UNLV, UNR as well as mentors from local STEM businesses/industry or NASA Personnel. If you are unsure of options, please contact Mr. Gibran Chavez-Gudino using the contact information at the end of this document.

**Award Information**

- The goal of the Scholarship program is to support and reward Nevada students for their achievements in academic endeavors related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics and should be administered as a scholarship.
- While all NSHE undergraduate students are eligible to apply for the academic year Scholarship program, the application process is different for: **Lower Division Students (those who have completed 59 or fewer semester credits overall) and Upper Division Students (those who have completed 60 or more semester credits overall)**. We anticipate awarding scholarships to both lower and upper division students in proportion to the number of applications that are received. Be sure to read the directions carefully, as those that do not submit the appropriate application information will not be considered.
- Because acceptance of this award may impact a student’s income level to a degree that could affect eligibility for other funding - including student loans, it is the students’ responsibility to consult with their graduate student office and their campus financial aid advisors. **Nevada Space Grant highly encourages students to meet with their financial aid office prior to application submission.**
- NSHE does not provide tax advice. If you have questions about possible tax liabilities, you may refer to the IRS web sites: <http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>.

**Program Guidelines**

1. Awardees must be US citizens and full-time students engaged in any major of a STEM discipline (science, technology, engineering or math) at any NSHE institution: College of Southern Nevada, Great Basin College, Nevada State College, Truckee Meadows Community College, University of Nevada Las Vegas, University of Nevada Reno, and Western Nevada College.
2. NASA requests longitudinal reporting once a year to communicate with past funded students/participants to determine any and all impacts these funding opportunities have on a student/participants future education/career plans.

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Women and members of underrepresented groups who are first generation and/or geographically isolated are especially encouraged to apply. NASA defines underrepresented groups as African Americans, Hispanics, Latinos, Native Americans and Pacific Islanders, in addition to persons with disabilities, women and veterans.

**Application Instructions**

Each application consists of an online form to which you can upload a single attachment at the end. The online form will ask for general information and serve as your application's cover page. Please prepare your application materials **(2-7)** ahead of time and merge all of your documents into a single PDF file. At the end of the survey you will be able to upload a single PDF file with all of your application materials.

You will receive a confirmation message as soon as your application has been submitted. If an applicant does not receive confirmation that his/her proposal was received, please contact Gibran Chavez-Gudino at [nasa@nshe.nevada.edu](mailto:nasa@nshe.nevada.edu) to verify receipt of proposal by the NSHE Sponsored Programs Office.

- 1. ONLINE APPLICATION** (online form) - All applicants will need to complete the online application. <https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/2017-2018-nvsgc-ug-application/>

**As a single PDF file, submit the following documents:**

**2. Project Description (limit two pages, including any and all graphs or pictures):**

The design of a proposed project may be the result of a collaborative effort by the applicant and mentor; however, the project description must be written solely by the student. It should be a concise statement including clear hypotheses to be tested or questions that will be addressed. The project description must be written so that is understandable to reviewers whose background may be outside the applicant's specific field. The two page project description should be single-spaced with 1" margins, in 12-pt font and must include the following sections:

- Abstract (50-100 words)
- Introduction
- Objectives
- Research hypotheses or questions
- Plans for research work, i.e., methods or tasks to be completed
- Timetable: (This must be reasonable and aligned with a summer or two semester project.)
- Plans for dissemination of results, e.g., presentation, report, journal publication

**3. References/citations:** Please provide appropriate references/citations related to the project you propose to perform. The citations are not included in the two page limit for the project description.

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**4. Scanned transcripts or downloaded “unofficial” pdf transcripts from College/University website.** Transcripts of all courses completed, including a list of courses currently enrolled in for fall 2016 must be provided.

**5. Biographical Sketch or Curriculum Vita (CV):** The student and mentor must each provide a biographical sketch or CV, which is limited to two pages per person and are not included in the two page limit for the project description. A template is available at: <https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Student-CV-Builder.pdf>

**6. Endorsement Letters:** At least one letter is to be written by the supervising faculty mentor(s) indicating their approval of the proposed project and describing their level of involvement in the project. All proposed mentors should affirm that the application is the original work of the student and that only guidance in editing and formatting the document were provided to the student applicant. Each proposed mentor must “sign-off” on the application, noting approval and affirming that they have read the student’s application and pledge to mentor the student throughout the project period. The letter must be in official letterhead OR must be a PDF copy of an email sent from the faculty’s official university/college address. It is the obligation of each applicant to verify that all letters of recommendation have been sent and received.

**7. Statement Of Interest (SOI):** This section provides the applicant with an opportunity to introduce himself/herself to the review panel. Information that describes why he/she would be a good candidate for this NASA funded opportunity. The SOI must be no more than one page. It should include education, training, and other accomplishments as they might relate to a successful aerospace or science-related career, including any science, mathematics, engineering, technology fields or science education fields. Make sure the applicant's full name and email address are in the header of the statement. As a helpful note, an excellent SOI document will include the following: Education and Career interests, experiences, and goals. Please be thorough but succinct in responding to each point that follows:

- a. Describe your interest in an aerospace or STEM-related career as it relates to a NASA objective/goal as stated in the NASA Strategic Plan (2014) at: [https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/files/FY2014\\_NASA\\_SP\\_508c.pdf](https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/files/FY2014_NASA_SP_508c.pdf)
- b. Describe your technical and educational experiences and how these experiences have prepared you for a scholarship.
- c. Extracurricular activities, such as clubs, scientific societies, science team activities, tutoring, volunteer, etc.
- f. How will this scholarship impact the applicant's future goals?

**V. APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

Scholarship applications will be selected based on a statewide merit-based review.

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The screening and selection process will include review by a committee of NSHE faculty that will focus on the following review criteria:

1. Expressed motivation and interest in a STEM/aerospace career.
2. A demonstrated level of academic preparation and excellence as reflected by his/her academic records/GPA and appropriate coursework which would predict success in a research experience.
3. Background experience and/or extracurricular activities that would help predict success in a research experience. An evaluation of the student's CV and supporting documents in regards to experience and potential for successfully completing a research project.
4. Clearly articulated motivation and reasons for seeking this scholarship.
5. Recommendation letter(s) must be strong and supportive of his/her participation in the program, including specific reference to his/her potential and likelihood for success in this program.
6. Level of faculty/mentor's involvement.
7. Quality of the application.
8. Quality and feasibility of the research proposal and it's relevancy to NASA.

## **Contacts**

Applicants with questions regarding this program are strongly encouraged to contact the Nevada Space Grant Consortium team.

Nevada NASA Research Administrator  
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Nevada NASA Project Director  
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702-862-5412

For a listing of Nevada STEM Mentors, visit:  
<https://stemmentor.epscorspo.nevada.edu/>