Oregon NASA Space Grant Consortium

2025-26
Graduate Fellowship Program
Call for Applications

Open to graduate students attending OSGC affiliate member institutions

Program Guide

Release Date: March 6, 2025
Application Deadline: May 2, 2025

Oregon NASA Space Grant Consortium
250 Kidder Hall | Corvallis, OR 97331-2103 | Phone: 541.737.2414 | Fax: 541.737.9946
http://www.spacegrant.oregonstate.edu

OSGC GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM GUIDE

Index

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Oregon NASA Space Grant Consortium (OSGC) is a member of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program (National Space Grant Program) within the NASA Office of STEM Engagement (OSTEM). OSGC supports the Agency's objectives of fostering and encouraging careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and STEM education to develop a skilled, high-performing, and capable, next-generation workforce. Access to experiential learning and research opportunities are crucial to enhancing a student's academic experience to meet the needs of NASA and the nation.

Oregon Space Grant is dedicated to embedding and integrating inclusive excellence throughout all aspects of OSGC programs and activities. OSGC programming aims to provide authentic and meaningful educational opportunities for all students, in support of serving Oregon communities and the national STEM workforce. OSGC programs are directed towards students enrolled in STEM fields including STEM education, at OSGC member institutions.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Fellowships are one-year awards intended to support graduate students enrolled full time at an OSGC affiliate member institution. Applicants must be enrolled in a space science or aerospace-related STEM discipline, currently working on a faculty-mentored research project that aligns with a NASA Mission Directorate or the Agency's top research priorities (see *Appendix A. Agency Information and Strategic Framework)*. Applicants must obtain full support from the faculty advisor prior to applying. Faculty advisors must be affiliated with an OSGC member institution and must provide a statement of support on behalf of the applicant. Submitted research projects are primarily the work of the student with guidance from the mentor.

Competitively awarded, OSGC Graduate Fellowships recognize high academic achievement and promise while promoting graduate level STEM-related research and encouraging students to pursue STEM careers in support of NASA's mission. Applicants must demonstrate their research project's relevance to NASA's top research priorities and strong alignment with NASA Mission Directorates.

The OSGC Fellowship Program goals are to advance the work of NASA Mission Directorates, encourage individuals to pursue graduate education in a space science or aerospace-related field, support research infrastructure at OSGC member institutions, retain U.S. graduates, and promote a capable and qualified future STEM workforce. Fellowship funds provide basic graduate research support, and/or serve as supplements to other awards or appointments such as graduate research assistantships, graduate teaching assistantships, and non-federal scholarships and fellowships.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be currently enrolled in a graduate program at one of the following OSGC member institutions.

4-Year Colleges and Universities

- Eastern Oregon University (EOU)
- George Fox University (GFU)
- Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT)
- Oregon State University (OSU)
- Pacific University (PU)*
- Portland State University (PSU)*
- Southern Oregon University (SOU)
- University of Oregon (UO)
- University of Portland (UP)
- Western Oregon University (WOU)

*Minority Serving Institution:
https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/edu_nasa_msi_list_2022_2023.pdf

Visit the following webpage for your institution representative's contact information.
http://spacegrant.oregonstate.edu/members-oregon-nasa-space-grant-consortium

AWARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Award Funds

Graduate fellowships in the amount of $10,000 per student are competitively awarded to graduate students currently enrolled full-time at an OSGC affiliate member institution. Oregon Space Grant Consortium's obligation to make awards is contingent upon availability of funds from the NASA National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program through the NASA Office of STEM Engagement. Note, students may not receive financial support from two federal sources simultaneously.

Duration

2025-26 graduate fellowships are one-time, non-renewable, academic year-long awards. Awards will be distributed as stipends directly to the student in two equal disbursements, the first in September 2025 and the second in May 2026 upon submission of all program deliverables.

DATES AND DEADLINES

- Application Deadline: **Friday, May 2, 2025**
- Award Selections: **June 2025**
- Duration of Award: **September 2025 – May 2026**
- Award Disbursements: **September 2025 ($5,000)** and **May 2026 ($5,000)**
- Student Symposium: **May 2026**
- Outreach Presentation(s): No later than **May 2026**
- Final Report Deadline: **May 2026**

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

The Graduate Fellowship program is open to graduate students who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Student is a U.S. Citizen
- Student maintains good academic standing, with a minimum GPA of 3.0 (out of 4.0)
- Student is enrolled as a full-time graduate student at an OSGC affiliate member institution for the duration of the award. (See *Eligibility* Page 3 for a list of eligible member institutions)
- Student is enrolled full time in an advanced degree program of study in a space science or aerospace-related STEM discipline (includes STEM education)
- Student currently works on a faculty-mentored research project that has NASA or space science/aerospace relevance and aligns with the Agency's top research priorities

REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIAL

Graduate Fellowship Application packets are submitted via the online application system and must include the following:

- Statement of Interest
- Description of Research Project
- Faculty Advisor Statement of Support
- Outreach Statement
- Student Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Academic Transcript
- Student Profile Form

Statement of Interest (Limit: 500 words)
A brief statement describing your interest in space science/aerospace and your desire to pursue a related career in a STEM field. Describe how receiving this fellowship would benefit you and contribute to your academic and career goals and objectives. Include other information that you believe qualifies you for fellowship consideration, including awards, achievements, challenges, or personal journey that you are willing to share.

Description of Research Project (Limit: 2000 words)
A statement of work written by the student in consultation with the faculty advisor that describes the key elements of the current research and what the student intends to accomplish. Clearly describe the research objective and methodology, including a timeline. Identify how the research relates to NASA's top research priorities and has strong alignment with NASA Mission Directorates (refer to *Appendix A. Agency Information and Strategic Framework)*. References are included in word count.

Faculty Advisor Statement of Support (Limit: 500 words)
The applicant's current faculty mentor for the research project must provide a brief statement of support acknowledging the application submission to the OSGC Graduate Fellowship program and the requirements and deliverables associated with the award. The Statement of Support is to be included in the online application packet submitted by the student.

Outreach Statement (Limit 500 words)
OSGC is committed to delivering programs with the intent of broadening student participation through access to NASA resources, opportunities, and activities. Sharing research and academic experiences with K-12 communities and public audiences promotes STEM awareness and STEM literacy. Additionally, outreach opportunities aid in developing a student's communication skills and enhance a student's graduate program experience. Provide a personal statement that describes the importance of outreach and the impact of sharing your research and experience with the goal of inspiring and engaging the next generation of learners. Describe your outreach approach and how you will conduct outreach presentations if awarded.

Student CV (Limit: Two pages)
A summary of your career and qualifications, including relevant employment, education, extra-curricular activities, and significant accomplishments. CV should include current contact information including email, phone, and mailing address.

Academic Transcript (Limit: As needed)
A PDF of your academic transcript must be submitted with your online application. Unofficial transcripts from your college or university website are acceptable and should include record of the courses in which you are currently enrolled.

Student Profile Form
Applicants must complete an online **Student Profile Form** and a **NASA Gateway profile** for the application to be considered for funding. This information is used for reporting and longitudinal tracking purposes to evaluate the effectiveness of NASA's Office of STEM Engagement higher education programs.

Online Application
Complete application packets are submitted online: **https://spacegrant.net/apps/orf1**

DELIVERABLES IF AWARDED

The following deliverables are required if awarded:

Outreach Presentation
Graduate fellowship recipients must make at least one presentation at an outreach event prior to the end of the award. Students should consider presentations to K-12 communities or in partnership with OSGC informal education affiliates—OMSI, The Museum at Warm Springs, or Sunriver Nature Center and Planetarium. Students will need to

document the date and location of the event, type of event, name of event, number of attendees, and demographics of audience if possible and include the information in table format in the final report.

Student Symposium
Graduate fellows are required to present a poster and PowerPoint presentation at the OSGC Spring Symposium, May 2026.

Final Report
A final report is due no later than May 30, 2026. The report should summarize the research methodology, analysis, findings, and outreach efforts. A list of publications arising from the work (if applicable) should be included. The final report should be written in an acceptable research format (APA, MLA, Chicago) and should not exceed 10 pages.

Publications
OSGC must be cited as a source of funding in all publications, proposals, speaking engagements, web sites, or general dissemination of information resulting from the work using the phrase "…supported in part through NASA and Oregon Space Grant Consortium". The cooperative agreement number will be provided in the award letter.

Contact Information
Student agrees to notify OSGC of any changes in mailing address, email, and telephone number for contact purposes.

Information/Media Release
The student grants permission to release and/or publish requested recipient information to NASA or other appropriate parties. Students submit a signed Media Release Form, granting OSGC permission to release information and utilize any submitted photos for publications and/or social media.

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Applications are evaluated for eligibility when received. Qualified applications will be reviewed by a selection committee who will make recommendations for funding based on stated review criteria (see below). OSGC encourages applicants from all member institutions with graduate programs.

Review Criteria
- Academic achievement
- Strength of Statement of Interest
- Demonstration of Space Science/Aerospace-related career goals
- Research project is clearly related to NASA's top research priorities and strongly aligns with NASA Mission Directorates
- Strength of Outreach Statement
- Commitment of Faculty Advisor

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Direct questions to Monty Johnson, OSGC Program Manager, monty.johnson@oregonstate.edu

Visit the Oregon Space Grant Consortium website: http://spacegrant.oregonstate.edu.

OSGC Graduate Fellowship Program: https://spacegrant.oregonstate.edu/graduate-fellowships

APPENDIX A: AGENCY INFORMATION AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

NASA's current topics and relevant missions are listed below. Students should use these priorities to guide them in the selection of a research review topic.

Humans in Space
International Space Station (ISS) - Commercial Crew Program (CCP) - NASA Astronauts - Low Earth Orbit (LEO) Economy

Moon to Mars
Commercial Lunar Payload Series (CLPS) Initiative - Lunar Gateway - Artemis Mission - Space Launch System (SLS)

Earth
Air – Climate - Hazards - Water, Oceans, and Ice - Land

Space Tech
Space Travel - Living in Space - Manufacturing, Materials, and 3-D Printing - Robotics - Science Instruments - High-Tech Computing

Flight
Green Aviation - Future Aircraft - Supersonic Flight - Reducing Flight Delays - Unmanned Aircraft

Solar System and Beyond
Planets, Moons, and Dwarf Planets - The Search for Life and Exoplanets - The Sun - Stars and Galaxies - Black Holes - Dark Energy and Dark Matter

Current High-Profile NASA Missions
- Artemis Program
- Commercial Crew Program
- Curiosity Mars Rover
- Hubble Space Telescope
- InSight Mars Lander
- International Space Station
- James Webb Space Telescope
- Juno: Mission of Jupiter
- Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter
- Mars Perseverance Rover
- New Horizons: Pluto and Beyond
- OSIRIS-Rex Asteroid Mission
- Parker Solar Probe

NASA Vision
Exploring the secrets of the universe for the benefit of all.

NASA Mission
NASA explores the unknown in air and space, innovates for the benefit of humanity, and inspires the world through discovery.

NASA 2022 Strategic Plan
https://www.nasa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/fy-22-strategic-plan-1.pdf?emrc=ff1a1e

2022 Strategic Plan Key Priorities
- **Strengthening STEM education through inspirational missions and collaboration with the academic community;**
- **Addressing the climate crisis through space-based observation equipment, international partnerships, and data-sharing; and**

- **Promoting rules and norms that govern space, create stability, and preserve and protect the space environment for the future**

NASA's vision and mission draw support from the organizational structure of the Mission Directorates, each with a specific responsibility.

NASA's Mission Directorates

- Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD): transforms aviation with research to dramatically reduce the environmental impact of flight, and improves aircraft and operations efficiency while maintaining safety in increasingly crowded skies. ARMD also generates innovative aviation concepts, tools, and technologies for development and maturation by the aviation community. https://www.nasa.gov/aeroresearch
- Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate (ESDMD): defines and manages systems development for programs critical to the NASA's Artemis program and planning for NASA's Moon to Mars exploration approach in an integrated manner. ESDMD manages the human exploration system development for lunar orbital, lunar surface, and Mars exploration. ESDMD leads the human aspects of the Artemis activities as well as the integration of science into the human system elements. ESDMD is responsible for development of the lunar and Mars architectures. Programs in the mission directorate include Orion, Space Launch System, Exploration Ground Systems, Gateway, Human Landing System, and Extravehicular Activity (xEVA) and Human Surface Mobility.
- Science Mission Directorate (SMD): expands the frontiers of Earth science, heliophysics, planetary science, and astrophysics. Using robotic observatories, explorer craft, ground-based instruments, and a peer-reviewed portfolio of sponsored research, SMD seeks knowledge about our solar system, the farthest reaches of space and time, and our changing Earth. http://science.nasa.gov/
- Space Operations Mission Directorate (SOMD): manages NASA's current and future space operations in and beyond low-Earth orbit (LEO), including commercial launch services to the International Space Station. SOMD operates and maintains exploration systems, develops and operates space transportation systems, and performs broad scientific research on orbit. In addition, SOMD is responsible for managing the space transportation services for NASA and NASA-sponsored payloads that require orbital launch, and the agency's space communications and navigation services supporting all NASA's space systems currently in orbit.
- Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD): pursues transformational technologies that have high potential for offsetting future mission risk, reducing cost, and advancing existing capabilities. STMD uses merit-based competition to conduct research and technology development, demonstration, and infusion of these technologies into NASA's missions and American industry. This mission directorate is being refocused as a new Exploration Research & Technology (ER&T) organization to support exploration as a primary customer. http://www.nasa.gov/directorates/spacetech/home/index.html.
- The Mission Support Directorate (MSD): enables the Agency's missions by managing institutional services and capabilities. MSD is actively reducing institutional risk to NASA's current and future missions by improving processes, stimulating efficiency, and providing consistency and uniformity across institutional standards and practices. https://www.nasa.gov/msd.