

STEM Bridge Scholarship Program

Objective

The National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program champions diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) by recruiting, retaining and preparing a diverse workforce, and proactively engaging and serving diverse populations. NC Space Grant is committed to building inclusive research, education, and public outreach programs that serve people with unique backgrounds, circumstances, needs, perspectives and ways of thinking.

Recognizing that some students have historically been underserved and underrepresented (i.e., minority groups that are not represented in the science, engineering, technology, or math (STEM) fields in numbers proportional to their composition in the U.S. population) NC Space Grant supports scholarships targeted to these individuals in order to help diversify the STEM workforce of the future.

To encourage talented underserved and underrepresented individuals (women, minorities and persons with disabilities) to pursue STEM related careers, NC Space Grant will implement the STEM Bridge Program. This is a competitive scholarship program for underserved and underrepresented freshman and sophomore undergraduate students with the goals of:

- Providing financial support to underrepresented students who demonstrate the potential to contribute to the future STEM workforce;
- Promoting STEM-related careers and research at the undergraduate level and to serve as a bridge to NCSG's Undergraduate Research Scholarship, Graduate Research Fellowship and other NASA related programs.
- Connecting underserved and underrepresented students to faculty and peers (e.g. NC Space Grant-supported students) that are conducting research at their institution;
- Fostering an understanding of [NASA Mission Directorate](#) research and pathways to NASA internships:
 - [Aeronautics Research](#)
 - [Human Exploration and Operations](#)
 - [Science](#)
 - [Space Technology](#)

Award Level

\$2,500 per student. Contingent upon receipt of NASA funds.

Up to 14 scholarships may be awarded.

Student applications will be judged based on academic merit, prior success in STEM coursework, extracurricular activities and prior school projects in STEM, faculty recommendation and demonstrated interest in NASA and a career in STEM.

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Must be currently enrolled as a full-time student (minimum 12 credit hours) at an accredited Minority Serving Institution (MSI) in the State of North Carolina.
- Must be pursuing a bachelor's degree in a science, engineering, technology, or mathematics (STEM) discipline of interest to NASA or aerospace industry.
- Must have completed at least one semester majoring in STEM at time of application and be a sophomore during the 2019-2020 academic year.
- Must have a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Students enrolled in an accredited Dual Engineering Degree program are eligible to apply. Applied Health Science majors are NOT eligible for this program.

* *Link to a list of US Department of Education Accredited Post-Secondary Minority Institutions:* <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite-minorityinst-list-tab.html>

How to Apply

Applications are due **Monday, October 7, 2019**.

A Faculty Letter of Recommendation is due on **Wednesday, October 9, 2019**.

Awards will be announced on or before **November 1, 2019**. Awards are contingent upon receipt of NASA funding.

Interested students must complete an online application (see link below). Please read all program guidelines including applicant eligibility and reporting requirements before submitting your application. The application must be submitted online and all information must be complete or the application will not be reviewed. There are additional fields required for the application however key application questions include:

1. What areas of STEM interest you? Why?
2. What STEM related career would you like to have in the future? Why?
3. Describe any STEM-related extra-curricular activities in which you have participated.
4. How will this award impact you personally and professionally?

Awardee Requirements

Upon selection, awardees must submit an acceptance form and provide a photo and biographical information; inform NC Space Grant of changes of address; and respond to academic and employment follow-up surveys.

Students may be asked to share their experience in public forums, classroom presentations and professional meetings. Presentations that encourage interest in aerospace careers and research to high school students are of particular interest to NCSG.

Awardees are required to complete the following in order to receive funding:

Fall Semester – 2019: 2 Requirements

1. Awardees are required to attend a fall webinar meeting that will feature a NASA mission directorate scientist, as well as an information session with NCSG staff. During the information session you will hear about all NCSG scholarships, fellowships and internships that are available.
2. Apply to NASA's Fellowships and Internships program [here](#). Students shall send a screen shot of their finalized application to NC Space Grant as verification. Please note that should an internship be awarded to the student that it is not a binding commitment. If awarded, funding for the experience shall be discussed with NC Space Grant.

After awardees complete both fall semester requirements, the first installment of scholarship award (\$1,000) will be released. Receipt of scholarship funds is not contingent upon successfully obtaining a NASA internship since offers are dependent on the NASA selection process. Rather NC Space Grant values the experience applying for NASA Internships – you never know!

Spring Semester – 2020: 3 Requirements

1. Conduct online research about NASA's current missions or planned missions, from any of the four NASA Mission Directorates. NASA aligns its research and other activities into these four Directorates. Links to NASA Mission Directorates:
 - a. [Aeronautics Research](#)
 - b. [Human Exploration and Operations](#)
 - c. [Science](#)
 - d. [Space Technology](#)
2. Interview a current faculty member at your university who teaches and conducts research in an area of interest to you. This research should be of interest to NASA but not necessarily already being conducted by NASA. You will want to do some of your own research to identify someone who could possibly be a good mentor for your future research. Awardees are required to submit a 1-2-page report summarizing what you learned during the interview and the NASA Mission Directorates.
3. Attend the NC Space Symposium to be held April 3-4, 2020 in Raleigh, NC. There is no registration cost for STEM Bridge Scholars. However, scholarship funds awarded through this opportunity shall cover travel costs to the symposium.

After your conference evaluation is submitted to NCSG, the second half of your scholarship award (\$1,500) will be released.

For more information, contact:

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