



Vermont Space Grant Consortium  
Request for Applications  
**GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM  
2025–2026**

Submission deadline:  
January 16, 2025 at 11:59 PM  
Release date: October 18, 2024

The Vermont Space Grant Consortium (VTSGC) is seeking applications for the VTSGC Graduate Fellowship Program for the twelve-month period July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. This program is open to U.S. graduate students enrolled in master's and doctoral programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines within the State of Vermont. The VTSGC expects to award four 2025–2026 graduate fellowships under this program.<sup>1</sup>

### **I. Program Overview**

The goals of this program are to (1) help prepare the next generation of researchers in STEM disciplines, and (2) provide the graduate student a research experience that strongly aligns with NASA research priorities and technology needs. The application for a VTSGC Graduate Fellowship must be prepared by the graduate student with collaborative support by a faculty mentor. Awards will be made directly to the student.

### **II. Eligibility**

Eligible graduate students are U.S. citizens enrolled full-time in a graduate program within a STEM discipline at a Vermont institution of higher education. Faculty serving as research mentors will be full-time faculty in STEM disciplines.

### **III. Amount and Period of Support**

Subject to the availability of NASA annual funding installments, these awards will provide the graduate student a stipend for a maximum of 12 months anticipated to span from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. For University of Vermont graduate fellowship recipients, the projected 12-month stipend is \$35,000. The award also includes up to \$13,200<sup>2</sup> for tuition costs and \$2,222 for fees, including health insurance.<sup>3</sup> For non-UVM graduate fellowship recipients attending another Vermont institution, the (projected) total amount of funding is \$50,422.

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<sup>1</sup>The availability and number of these awards are subject to future NASA funding.

<sup>2</sup>Amount is based on 18 credits at current in-state tuition rates. This amount could change.

<sup>3</sup>Health insurance costs could change.

#### **IV. Application**

The completed application must include items listed below.

1. **Signed Cover Page.** Use the form available at <https://www.uvm.edu/spacegrant/graduate-research-fellowship-competition>.
2. **Project Narrative** (limit of four pages, exclusive of citations). A narrative providing a description of the research to be undertaken, its significance, methods, and expected outcomes. Include any relevant prior work done by the student and/or background. Be specific about what research activities or tasks the student will undertake, including a timeline for those activities. This section should avoid the use of highly technical language. It should be written at a level that will be understandable to a general audience of STEM researchers who are not necessarily experts in the specific project area of the proposed research.
3. **NASA Relevance.** (limit of one page, exclusive of any external letters/emails) Provide evidence that the proposed research is aligned with a new or continuing NASA research priority or technical need. For example, the applicant may cite a current or pending NASA research announcement. Letters/emails of support from a NASA researcher may be included to demonstrate NASA interest.
4. **Student Resume** (limit of two pages).
5. **Student Academic Transcript.** Established graduate students must provide a copy of their graduate transcript; first-year graduate students must provide a copy of their undergraduate transcript. An unofficial transcript is acceptable.

Please note that items 2–4 above must be single-spaced, using at least a 12-point font size and 1-inch margins on 8-by-11-inch pages. Applications that do not adhere to this requirement will not be considered.

#### **V. Electronic Application Procedure**

The application must be submitted electronically to the VTSGC Office no later than 11:59 PM on **January 16, 2025**. The application described in Section IV must be saved as a single PDF file and emailed using the address [sg.director@uvm.edu](mailto:sg.director@uvm.edu) and subject line “Graduate Fellowship Application.” Applications will be acknowledged by email.

#### **VI. Review and Selection Process**

Applications responsive to this call will be reviewed by a panel of STEM faculty researchers, who will assess the strengths and weaknesses of the application in each of the following domains: scientific merit, applicant’s qualifications, and NASA relevance. Applicants will receive written critiques. The final selections will be made by the VTSGC Director in consultation with the VTSGC Board of Advisors.

#### **VII. Obligations Associated with Funding**

Recipients of the fellowship, in collaboration with their faculty mentor, will be required to provide written progress updates to the Space Grant Director during the award period as needed to comply with NASA reporting requests. A final report will be due within thirty (30) days of the end of the award period. Awardees must also complete a pre- and post-award survey from the VTSGC as well as create a profile in NASA's online Gateway portal.

These surveys and profiles are required for the VTSGC office to provide mandated reports to the NASA Office of STEM Education.

### **VIII. For More Information**

Please direct any questions about this program to

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