



SOUTH DAKOTA SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM
Student Fellowship/Scholarship Stipend Program – Application and Instructions
(Educational, Research, and Internship Stipends)
2012/2013 Academic Year -- Fall 2012 & Spring 2013 semesters and Summer 2013
(Release Date – August 29, 2012)

Program Summary

The South Dakota Space Grant Consortium (SDSGC) fellowship/scholarship stipend program invites applications from U.S. citizens for undergraduate and graduate student stipends for research, educational, or internship pursuits in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Projects must align with NASA's mission and those of the SDSGC and its affiliates. **All 2012/2013 awards are subject to the availability of funding from NASA.**

- **Internship stipends** are provided in the range of \$6,000 - \$10,000 to support either 10-week summer or 15-week semester internships at NASA Centers, other government agencies, or aerospace industry.
- **Undergraduate research stipends** are provided at amounts up to \$7,000 and will support full-time undergraduate STEM research during the summer and part-time research during the academic year.
- **Graduate research stipends** are provided up to \$14,000 and will support a graduate student who is engaged in significant STEM-related research.
- **Educational stipends** of \$1,000 and \$2,500 will support STEM related education during the regular school year. The \$1,000 level is applied to freshmen and \$2,500 to sophomore level and above.

Graduate and undergraduate research stipend awardees are expected to produce a publication or poster.

Important Dates

Application Receipt Deadline: October 3, 2012

Award Notification: by October 30, 2012

Eligibility and U.S. Citizenship Requirement

All applicants must be citizens of the United States. Stipends under this solicitation are available only to students attending South Dakota institutions of higher education during the award period. Women students and students from underrepresented groups are particularly encouraged to apply.

Application Instructions

Applications are to be submitted online. A complete application consists of the following five items in the following order:

1. A completed application form
2. Cover letter
3. Recommendation letter (may be submitted with student application or separately online by faculty advisor)
4. Resume
5. Transcripts of completed undergraduate and graduate work

1. **Application form** must be completed online at the following website:
https://sdmines.sdsmt.edu/cgi-bin/global/sg_update_app.cgi
2. **Cover letter** must include reference to any education or experience the applicant has in relation to NASA, an explanation of how the applicant will use the stipend to assist in his/her educational studies, and a career goal statement that briefly describes the applicant's views of careers in the STEM disciplines, how the applicant fits into such a career, and career accomplishments anticipated by the applicant.
 - ✓ For "internship stipends" the cover letter must also include the location and brief description of the proposed internship and must not exceed two (2) single-spaced pages.
 - Applicants should note that NASA and Industry internships also have their own internship or employment application process separate from this application. Those agencies or employers must be contacted directly for their application materials (see p. 3 for some internship opportunities). Most internships provided by NASA and industry occur in the summer. Please note that EROS internships are gained through regular

employment application through the EROS Technical Support Services Contractor, SGT, Inc. or the US Geological Survey.

- √ For “research stipends” the cover letter must also include a **research project proposal** that gives: A) an executive summary of the proposed research, and B) a project description that includes: 1) the current state-of-the-art upon which the research will build, 2) specific goals and outcomes of the proposed research, 3) research activities that will accomplish the goals and produce the outcomes, 4) specific metrics that will be used to measure project success, 5) a timeline for activities, and 6) an explanation of how the research project fits into the SDSGC’s strategic plan including the specific strategic objective(s) and strategy(ies) that the project addresses. SDSGC’s most recent Strategic Plan is available at <http://sdspacegrant.sdsmt.edu/reports.html>. For “research stipends” the cover letter must not exceed three (3) single-spaced pages (excluding references).
- √ For “educational stipends” the cover letter must not exceed one (1) single-spaced page.
- 3. **Recommendation letter** must come from a faculty advisor and include a recommendation as to the student’s qualifications for the Space Grant stipend. For students applying for a research stipend, the recommendation letter must come from the advisor supervising the research project (research advisor). This recommendation must include an analysis of the applicant’s preparation and ability to perform the research, the nature of any prior experience with the applicant, and a clear statement indicating the role of the advisor in the applicant’s research project. **Faculty who prefer to submit their recommendation letter separately rather than giving it to the student to include in his/her application must submit it online by October 3, 2012 according to instructions that will be sent to them in a system-generated email message.**
- 4. **Resume** must include a summary of education, training, experience, and accomplishments.
- 5. **Transcript** must be the most recent copy of the applicant’s completed undergraduate and graduate work. An unofficial copy (e.g., from Web Advisor) or photocopy of the transcript is sufficient.

Application Electronic Submission Instructions

- Application item 1 (the Application Form) is to be completed online at https://sdmines.sdsmt.edu/cgi-bin/global/sg_update_app.cgi
Applications items 2, 3, 4, and 5 must be uploaded as a **single electronic file in PDF format** online at the same website as the Application Form by October 3, 2012.
- Faculty that wish to submit their recommendation letter (item 3) separately rather than giving it to the student to include in their electronic application may do so by uploading the letter in **PDF format** directly to an online site that only the reviewers will be able to access. The recommendation letters are due by October 3, 2012. The URL address where the faculty member should upload his/her letter will be sent to that person in a system-generated email immediately after the student enters that person’s email address on the Application Form.

Late or incomplete applications or applications containing more than a single electronic file (with the exception of faculty recommendation letters which may be submitted separately) will not be accepted.

Awards

Applications will be reviewed and award selections made by the SDSGC Management Team listed online at <http://sdspacegrant.sdsmt.edu/contact.html>. **The purpose of both undergraduate and graduate fellowship/ scholarship stipends is to reward past accomplishments and recognize potential future achievements. The stipends are made to individuals and are not to be considered compensation for employment.** The student awardee should contact the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or a tax accountant to determine what needs to be reported on a tax return since Consortium personnel may not be qualified to answer all questions in this regard. **Awards are subject to availability of NASA funding for 2012/2013.**

Reporting

At the end of the award period, the student must submit a brief report (an email message will suffice) to Tom Durkin at the Space Grant Headquarters Office on his/her experience and accomplishments. Additional

survey/questionnaire documents will be sent periodically to student awardees via email by the National Space Grant Foundation hired by the SD Space Grant Consortium to conduct “**longitudinal tracking**” of students supported by Space Grant. NASA has requested that we gather data on the education and employment history of current and former participants in our programs. The longitudinal tracking survey/questionnaire is an on-line document and the email message sent to the students will give instructions on how to access it.

Inquiries

Questions concerning the preparation and submission of applications and the administration of this program should be addressed to Thomas Durkin, Deputy Director, SD Space Grant Consortium, SDSM&T, 501 E. Saint Joseph Street, Rapid City, SD 57701, Email: Thomas.Durkin@sdsmt.edu, Phone: 605-394-1975; or to any of the other SDSGC Management Team staff listed at <http://sdspagegrant.sdsmt.edu/contact.html>

Students who have filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the period in which they would receive the Space Grant stipend may wish to visit with their institution’s Financial Aid office to determine what impact, if any, receiving a Space Grant stipend could have on their eligibility for certain types of Federal Student Aid (loans, work-study and certain grants). This visit is just a suggestion.

Acknowledgement

In any presentations or publications that the student develops as a result of his/her Space Grant-supported educational or research project, we ask that the student please acknowledge the support provided by the NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium.

Internship websites

The following websites provide information on specific internships and educational programs to which students can apply at NASA Centers, EROS, other government agencies, or industry. This includes companies available through South Dakota’s “Dakota Seeds” program. Many of these internships may not yet be open for application to summer 2013 programs. However, in the Space Grant application cover letter, students who are interested in NASA, other government, or aerospace industry internships should indicate to which of those internships they have applied or are planning to apply when applications open. Please note that not all NASA internship opportunities are listed here.

- **NASA One Stop Shopping Initiative (OSSI)** <http://intern.nasa.gov/> and **Student On-line Application for Recruiting Interns, Fellows, and Scholars (SOLAR)** <https://intern.nasa.gov/solar/web/public/main/>
OSSI:SOLAR is a NASA-wide system for the recruitment, application, selection and career development of undergraduate and graduate students primarily in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines.
- **NASA Langley Aerospace Research Student Scholars Program (LARSS) Program**
<http://www.nianet.org/larss/>
- **NASA Dryden Cooperative Education Program**
<http://www.nasa.gov/centers/dryden/education/coop.html>
- **NASA Marshall Space Flight Center Higher Education**
http://www1.nasa.gov/centers/marshall/education/higher_education.html
- **USGS EROS Government Internships**
http://eros.usgs.gov/#/About_Us/Employment
EROS/SGT Contractor Internships – Interested students should send a letter of interest and resume to Linda Heilman, Human Resources Manager, SGT Inc., 47914 252nd Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57198. Internships contingent on available funding.
- **Dakota Seeds (Internship Opportunities with Companies in South Dakota)**
<http://www.dakotaseeds.com>
- **Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF) Internships**
<http://www.sanfordundergroundlaboratoryathomestake.org/>
- **L-3 Internships and co-ops**
<http://www.l-3com.com/careers/new-grads-co-ops-and-internships.html>