Space Grant Internship and Fellowship Opportunity
Fall 2025

Nominations Due: Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Program Background

Kansas Space Grant Consortium (KSGC) has received an opportunity to increase the number of NASA Internship and Fellowship (NIF) awards for academic year 2025-2026. This opportunity will support the accomplishment of the KSGC vision, mission, and goals while serving NASA Mission Directorate needs. Internships and fellowships will be competitively awarded through a review process.

Program Goals

The program goals include:

- Engaging a motivated and qualified student in a project that contributes to the development of solutions addressing NASA Mission Directorate challenges.
- Providing meaningful hands-on experiences.
- Cultivating a student to successfully gain career skills for a STEM profession.

Program Details

Information about the opportunity is as follows:

- The student must be a U.S. citizens. This is a requirement in order to receive NASA funding.
- The nominee must be enrolled full time and in good standing.
- The nominations will be competitively evaluated based on potential.
- Participants should dedicate up to 20 hours per week working closely with a faculty researcher. The number of hours per week should be determined by the student and faculty researcher after careful consideration of other time commitments.
- The faculty researcher will mentor the student and be their direct supervisor.
- The project should help address NASA Mission Directorate challenges. Information about the Mission Directorates is included in the Appendix and may also be found at https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/
- Fall 2025 internships will have a start date of November 2, 2025 and an end date of December 20, 2025.
- Undergraduate students will be paid at a rate of $20.50 per hour. Graduate students will be paid at a rate of $24.75 per hour. The stipend will be paid entirely by Kansas Space Grant.
- Students who are funded during Fall 2025 and receive positive feedback from their faculty mentor will be given preference for Spring 2026 funding. The funding of Spring 2026 awards is contingent upon the availability of funding. The period of performance for Spring 2026 internships and fellowships is tentatively January 4, 2026 to May 16, 2026.

Nomination Instructions

Students will be nominated by a faculty researcher. Nominations should be submitted by the faculty researcher as a single PDF document of less than 1 MB size via email to NASA in Kansas (nasainkansas@wichita.edu) and Linda Kliment (Linda.Kliment@wichita.edu). The document should consist of the following:

- A cover sheet which contains contact information for the student and the faculty researcher.
- The student's current resume, which should be no longer than 2 pages.
- A nomination letter written by the faculty researcher.

The faculty researcher should outline the following in their nomination letter:

- The name of the internship or fellowship, which must align with the definitions provided in the appendix
- The location where the work will be performed (campus and lab name, if available)
- The number of hours per week that the student will work
- The specific collaborative work
- The NASA Mission Directorate addressed
- Expected outcomes of the research
- Methods in which the research outcomes will be disseminated
- Specific metrics that demonstrate achievements (e.g., S.M.A.R.T. goals or measurable outcomes)

Submissions are due by Tuesday, October 21, 2025.

Please feel free to contact the KSGC Director, Linda Kliment (Linda.Kliment@wichita.edu), with any questions.

Appendix - Additional Helpful Information

Definitions

Internships

Internships are educational hands-on traineeships that provide unique research and/or operational experiences for educators, high school, undergraduate, and graduate students at/through a NASA Center, educational institution, or industry location. Internships may occur virtually, in-person, or both (hybrid). Internships integrate participants with career professionals emphasizing mentor-directed, degree-related, project task completion.

Fellowships

Fellowships are opportunities awarded to qualified students at the graduate level of education in fields related to space needed to help advance NASA's mission. Fellowship awardees receive experiences that provide educational and training assistance from qualified faculty.

NASA Mission Directorates

Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate

Results achieved by NASA's aeronautical innovators through the years directly benefit today's air transportation system, the aviation industry, and the passengers and businesses who rely on those advances in flight every day. As a result, every U.S. commercial aircraft and U.S. air traffic control tower uses NASA-developed technology to improve efficiency and maintain safety.
https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/armd/

Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

The Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate manages human exploration system development for lunar orbital, lunar surface, and Mars exploration. Artemis missions will open a new era of scientific discovery and economic opportunity on the Moon while validating operations and systems and preparing for human missions to Mars. Programs in the directorate include the Space Launch System rocket, Orion spacecraft, supporting ground systems, human landing systems, spacesuits, and Gateway.
https://www.nasa.gov/exploration-systems-development-mission-directorate/

Mission Support Directorate

The Mission Support Directorate enables NASA's missions by providing foundational support capabilities responsive to evolving mission needs. The directorate delivers services and capabilities that ensure NASA has the technical skills, physical assets, financial resources, and top talent to be successful while also providing novel, innovative, high-quality solutions and leading-edge enterprise services to empower NASA customers, partners, and employees.
https://www.nasa.gov/msd/

Science Mission Directorate

The Science Mission Directorate is an organization where discoveries in one scientific discipline have a direct route to other areas of study. This flow is something extremely valuable and is rare in the scientific world. From exoplanet research to better understanding Earth's climate to understanding the influence of the sun on our planet and the solar system, the directorate's work is interdisciplinary and collaborative.
https://science.nasa.gov/

Space Operations Mission Directorate

The Space Operations Mission Directorate maintains a continuous human presence in space for the benefit of people on Earth. The programs within the directorate are the heart of NASA's space exploration efforts, enabling Artemis, commercial space, science, and other agency missions through communication, launch services, research capabilities, and crew support.
https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/space-operations/

Space Technology Mission Directorate

Technology drives exploration and the space economy. NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate aims to transform future missions while ensuring American leadership in aerospace. The directorate develops, demonstrates, and transfers new space technologies that benefit NASA, commercial, and other government missions.
https://www.nasa.gov/space-technology-mission-directorate/

S.M.A.R.T. Goals

S.M.A.R.T goals are:

S = Specific
M = Measurable
A = Attainable
R = Realistic and Results Focused
T = Timely and Trackable

Specific: Be precise about what you are going to achieve. A specific goal has a much greater chance of being accomplished than a general goal.

- Specify the target and the intended outcome.
- Define one outcome per objective.
- Be specific about what will be achieved by avoiding vague verbs. Some examples of vague verbs are "know" and "understand".
- Make sure the objective is linked to the goal.

Measurable: Set criteria for measuring progress toward the attainment of each goal you set.

- Use measures as indicators of program success.
- If possible, establish a baseline.

Attainable: Define the ways that you will accomplish the goals.

- Consider attitudes, abilities, skills, and financial capacity needed to reach the goals.
- Look for opportunities for achieving the goals.

Realistic: A goal must embody an idea toward which you are both willing and able to work. Be sure that your goal represents substantial progress.

- Define the resources needed, which may include time commitment and workforce.
- Identify all partners needed and the stakeholders.
- Consider if the measures are realistic. For example, if the baseline from the previous year was 2%, is a 1% increase in the upcoming year realistic?

Timely: A goal should be carried out within a specific time frame. With no time frame tied to the goal, there is no sense of urgency for its completion.

- Provide a timeframe.
- Consider the risks associated with falling behind schedule.

Here is an example of a few S.M.A.R.T. goals:

- By January 2026, at least 25 middle-school STEM teachers will have participated in the program.
- Follow-up surveys, conducted 3 months after the workshop, will verify that at least 90% of the participants are using NASA and workshop material and experiences regularly in the classroom.