1. Introduction

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA’s) Mission, 

*To pioneer the future in space exploration, scientific discovery, and aeronautics research,*

and the U.S. Space Exploration Policy, whose fundamental goal is 

*To advance U.S. scientific, security, and economic interests through a robust space exploration program,*

allow the science objectives of the NASA Science Mission Directorate (SMD) to be clearly defined as the orderly pursuit of the agency’s strategic goals. Specifically, SMD endeavors to:

- *Understand the Sun and its interactions with Earth and the solar system, including space weather;*
- *Advance knowledge of Earth as a system to meet the challenges of environmental change and to improve life on our planet;*
- *Ascertain the content, origin, and evolution of the solar system and the potential for life elsewhere; and*
- *Discover how the universe works, explore how it began and evolved, and search for life on planets around other stars.*
This call for graduate fellowship proposals, entitled *NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship (NESSF) Program – 2015/2016 Academic Year*, solicits applications from accredited U.S. Universities on behalf of individuals pursuing Masters or Doctoral (Ph.D.) degrees in Earth and space sciences, or related disciplines, at respective institutions. The purpose of NESSF is to ensure continued training of a highly qualified workforce in disciplines needed to achieve NASA’s scientific goals outlined above. Awards resulting from the competitive selection will be made in the form of training grants to the respective universities with the advisor serving as the principal investigator.

The financial support for the NESSF Program comes from SMD’s four science divisions: Earth Science, Heliophysics, Planetary Science, and Astrophysics. For the 2015/2016 academic year, NASA expects to award approximately 50 new graduate fellowships in Earth Science, 3-5 in Heliophysics, 10 in Planetary Science, and 6-10 in Astrophysics.

2. **SMD Overview**

The NASA Science Mission Directorate (SMD) supports basic and applied research in Earth and space science. The SMD research program includes the development of major space flight missions; analysis of data from prior missions; conduct of major field campaigns; and the Supporting Research and Technology (SR&T) program which includes development of instruments for suborbital flights and potential missions, detector development, complementary laboratory research, data assimilation, computational modeling, and theoretical studies. The SMD also supports the use of scientific knowledge, data, and modeling to support science-based policy and management decisions.

The fundamental questions and goals for NASA's Earth and space science research activities are given in a series of Strategic Plans and Science Roadmaps; these documents can be accessed at [http://science.hq.nasa.gov/strategy](http://science.hq.nasa.gov/strategy) and [http://science.hq.nasa.gov/strategy/roadmaps/](http://science.hq.nasa.gov/strategy/roadmaps/).

Interested proposers are advised that a key criterion for proposal evaluation and selection is the relevance of the proposed investigation to the NASA mission as described in the Strategic Plans and Science Roadmaps. Students should consider applying to this program only if they can present valid lines of reasoning that their intended research is clearly relevant to NASA SMD science research programs and/or missions and/or strategic objectives. Programmatic factors may also affect selection (for example, see specific priorities in the Divisions listed below). The proposal should present a well-defined problem and justification of its scientific significance, as well as a detailed approach for its solution.

Research that exploits analysis of data collected by spacecraft-borne instruments, relevant surface-based data (including aircraft- and balloon-based data) and laboratory experiments, data assimilation, and computational and/or theoretical modeling is solicited. Emphasis is placed on the development and implementation of a multifaceted program of space-based and suborbital (surface-based, airborne, sounding rocket, and
balloon) missions, and the development and use of computational models that utilize these observations for initialization, verification, process representation, and/or assimilation. Investigations that support instrumentation development relevant to future missions in the above areas, the analysis of data from ongoing and past missions, and laboratory and theoretical investigations that support the interpretation of relevant space-based observations are invited. Individuals are strongly encouraged to make their proposals directly relevant to the mission of the SMD science divisions and to clearly indicate to which division they are proposing.

3. **Scientific Areas of Support**

All applications to NESSF must address the goals and objectives of one or more of the four SMD research programs as outlined below. The student shall have the primary initiative in defining the proposed research to NESSF, with input or supervision from his or her advisor, as appropriate. In cases when the advisor already has an ongoing research award from NASA, it is not a problem for the research proposed under NESSF to address a similar scientific problem, but the proposal should make clear how the proposed research goes beyond that which NASA has already agreed to support.

I. **Earth Science Research Program**

The Earth Science Research Program, managed by the Earth Science Division of the Science Mission Directorate, fulfills NASA's mission to drive advances in science, technology, aeronautics, and space exploration to enhance knowledge, education, innovation, economic vitality, and stewardship of Earth (see NASA 2014 Strategic Plan at [http://science.nasa.gov/about-us/science-strategy/](http://science.nasa.gov/about-us/science-strategy/)) and, in particular, the strategic objective 2.2, to advance knowledge of Earth as a system to meet the challenges of environmental change, and to improve life on our planet. This strategic objective is motivated by the following key questions:

- How is the global Earth system changing?
- What causes these changes in the Earth system?
- How will the Earth system change in the future?
- How can Earth system science provide societal benefit?

These science questions translate into seven overarching science goals to guide the Earth Science Division’s selection of investigations in scientific and technological research and other programmatic decisions:

- Advance the understanding of changes in the Earth’s radiation balance, air quality, and the ozone layer that result from changes in atmospheric composition (*Atmospheric Composition*)
- Improve the capability of predict weather and extreme weather events (*Weather*)
- Detect and predict changes in Earth’s ecological and chemical cycles, including land cover, biodiversity, and the global carbon cycle (*Carbon Cycle and Ecosystems*)
• Enable better assessment and management of water quality and quantity to accurately predict how the global water cycle evolves in response to climate change (Water and Energy Cycle)
• Improve the ability to predict climate changes by better understanding the roles and interactions of the ocean, atmosphere, land, and ice in the climate system (Climate Variability and Change)
• Characterize the dynamics of Earth’s surface and interior, improving the capability to assess and respond to natural hazards and extreme events (Earth Surface and Interior)
• Further the use of Earth system science research to inform decisions and provide benefits to society

The outcomes that NASA anticipates from its research and development in these overarching scientific goals are summarized in detail in Chapter 4.2 of the NASA 2014 Science Plan available at http://science.nasa.gov/about-us/science-strategy/.

The Earth System Science component of NESSF encourages proposals that place particular emphasis on the utilization of NASA unique capabilities in study of the Earth. Foremost among NASA’s unique capabilities is its fleet of Earth observing satellites and sensors aboard the International Space Station, providing a comprehensive suite of measurements of all the components of the Earth system. See descriptions of the flight missions at http://science.nasa.gov/about-us/smd-programs/earth-systematic-missions/ and http://science.nasa.gov/about-us/smd-programs/earth-system-science-pathfinder/, as well as information about data access and discovery at http://earthdata.nasa.gov/.

Additional examples of emphasis include:

• Integration of satellite-, aircraft-, and surface-based measurements, in conjunction with models and simulations, such as Observations for Model Intercomparison Projects (obs4MIPs; http://obs4mips.llnl.gov:8080/wiki/FrontPage), Analysis for Model Intercomparison Projects (Ana4MIPs; https://earthsystemcog.org/projects/ana4mips/), NASA Earth Exchange (NEX; http://nex.nasa.gov), other core modeling and data assimilation capabilities and resources (http://gmao.gsfc.nasa.gov/; http://www.giss.nasa.gov/tools/), and facilitating use of NASA-produced data and models for operational purposes (Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation; http://www.jcsda.noaa.gov/inKindResearch_NASA.php; Short-Term Prediction Research and Transition Center; http://weather.msfc.nasa.gov/sport/)
• Research focused on NASA airborne or ship-borne research campaigns, such as, SABOR (Ship-Aircraft Bio-Optical Research), Operation IceBridge, Earth Venture-1 investigations (AirMoss, ATTREX, CARVE, DISCOVER-AQ, HS3), SEAC4RS (Studies of Emissions, Atmospheric Composition, Clouds and Climate Coupling by Regional Surveys), HyspIRI (Hyperspectral Infrared Imager), ARISE (Arctic Radiation – Ice Bridge Sea Ice Experiment), and Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle Synthetic Aperture Radar (UAVSR) airborne research, etc.
• Innovative scientific and engineering research in the areas of remote sensing technologies, including those which are relevant to the suite of Earth-viewing

- Research contributing significantly to interagency programs established by Congressional and/or administration direction (e.g., US Global Change Research Program; http://www.globalchange.gov), national and international assessments, including approaches enhancing the usefulness of NASA data and/or models to such assessments (through either direct participation in them or in the use of data and models so that they are documented in the peer reviewed literature and thus available for use in future assessments). These assessments include, but are not limited to, the National Climate Assessment being carried out under the auspices of the US Global Change Research Program (see http://www.globalchange.gov/what-we-do/assessment/nca-overview), the Climate Change Assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the quadrennial ozone assessments of the World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Environment Programme.

The Earth Science Applications component of the NESSF encourages submissions from individuals pursuing interdisciplinary degrees linking Earth science research with policy, business, and management studies, including examination of the application of the research results to specific fields (e.g., natural resource management, environmental policy, public health, disaster management, land or marine ecosystem planning, international development, etc.); analysis of climate-related influences and impacts; and examination of relevant issues in public and private sector decision-making (e.g., uncertainty, risk, alternatives, valuation, implications, costs, benefits, etc.). The current focus areas include:

1) Disasters;
2) Ecosystems and Ecological Forecasting;
3) Health and Air Quality; and
4) Water Resources.

More information is available at http://appliedsciences.nasa.gov.

In addition, the Earth Science Division encourages technology research relating to advanced components, advanced information systems, and instrument development complementing the investments of NASA’s Earth Science Technology Office (http://esto.nasa.gov). From space-borne instruments and components to data systems and modeling, these technologies cover a broad range of scientific observations, operational requirements, as well as practical applications that benefit the society at large.

Proposals that bring the techniques of other scientific disciplines to bear on remote-sensing relevant Earth science problems are also encouraged. For example, proposals that
will bring techniques and methodologies from computing and computational sciences and software engineering to bear on the large modeling and data systems used to prepare or analyze big Earth science data sets are encouraged.

The Earth Science components of NESSF discourage submission of paleo-climate, paleo-ecology, and paleo-hydrology related proposals, except when used for “out-of-sample” comparison of NASA modeling efforts. Submissions that address the molecular biology, biochemistry, development, physiology, or evolution of living organisms, without a direct utilization of remote sensing approaches or global/regional modeling which makes use of remote sensing data, as well as efforts in laboratory and/or theoretical chemistry that are not directly related to remote sensing and/or computational modeling of atmospheric gas phase and particulate composition, are encouraged to seek other applicable components in NESSF (e.g., astrobiology in the Planetary Science Research Program) or other Federal graduate research opportunities.

II. Heliophysics Research Program

The Heliophysics Research Program seeks to “Understand the Sun and its interactions with Earth and the solar system, including space weather,” which is Objective 1.4 of the NASA Strategic Plan 2014. In pursuit of this objective, and with guidance from the National Research Council’s most recent decadal survey (Solar and Space Physics, A Science for a Technological Society, www.nap.edu), the following questions are posed:

- What causes the Sun to vary?
- How do the geospace, planetary space environments, and the heliosphere respond?
- What are the impacts on humanity?

To address these questions, the Heliophysics Division implements missions and scientific research with three overarching science goals.

- Explore the physical processes in the space environment from the Sun to the Earth and throughout the solar system
- Advance our understanding of the connections that link the Sun, the Earth, planetary space environments, and the outer reaches of our solar system
- Develop the knowledge and capability to detect and predict extreme conditions in space to protect life and society and to safeguard human and robotic explorers beyond Earth

The Heliophysics research program and missions are described in Chapter 4.1 of the SMD Science Plan 2014 available at http://science.hq.nasa.gov/strategy. The program supports theory, modeling, and data analysis utilizing remote sensing and in-situ measurements from a fleet of missions; the Heliophysics System Observatory (HSO). Frequent suborbital rockets, balloons, and ground-based instruments add to the observational base. Supported research activities include projects that address understanding of the Sun and planetary space environments, including the origin,
evolution, and interactions of space plasmas and electromagnetic fields throughout the heliosphere and in connection with the galaxy. The program seeks to characterize these phenomena on a broad range of spatial and temporal scales, to understand the fundamental processes that drive them, to understand how these processes combine to create space weather events, and to enable a capability for predicting future space weather events. The program supports investigations of the Sun, including processes taking place throughout the solar interior and atmosphere and the evolution and cyclic activity of the Sun. It supports investigations of the origin and behavior of the solar wind, energetic particles, and magnetic fields in the heliosphere and their interaction with the Earth and other planets, as well as with the interstellar medium. The program also supports investigations of the physics of magnetospheres, including their formation and fundamental interactions with plasmas, fields, and particles and the physics of the terrestrial mesosphere, thermosphere, ionosphere, and auroras, including the coupling of these phenomena to the lower atmosphere and magnetosphere.

III. Planetary Science Research Program

The Planetary Science Research Program, managed by the Planetary Science Division, sponsors research that addresses objective 1.5 of NASA’s Strategic Plan: “Ascertain the content, origin, and evolution of the Solar System and the potential for life elsewhere.” NASA’s planetary science goals, as described in Chapter 4.3 of the SMD 2014 Science Plan (http://science.hq.nasa.gov/strategy), are:

- Explore and observe the objects in the Solar System to understand how they formed and evolve.
- Advance the understanding of how the chemical and physical processes in the Solar System operate, interact and evolve.
- Explore and find locations where life could have existed or could exist today.
- Improve our understanding of the origin and evolution of life on Earth to guide our search for life elsewhere.
- Identify and characterize objects in the Solar System that pose threats to Earth or offer resources for human exploration.

In order to address these goals, the Planetary Research Program invites a wide range of investigations into the nature and origin of the celestial bodies in our Solar System and whether life exists beyond Earth.

Topics may include:
- Investigations of extraterrestrial materials, including meteorites, cosmic dust, and samples returned by the Apollo, Stardust, Genesis, and Hayabusa missions;
- Investigations which enhance the scientific return of Planetary Science Division missions through the analysis of data collected by those missions;
- Investigations of planetary surfaces and interiors, satellites (including the Moon), satellite and ring systems, and smaller Solar System bodies such as asteroids and comets;
IV. Astrophysics Research Program

The Astrophysics Research Program, managed by the Astrophysics Division, explores the universe beyond our solar system: from the search for planets and life in other stellar systems to the origin, evolution, structure, and destiny of the universe itself. The broad themes of the Astrophysics Research Program are:

(i) Physics of the Cosmos:

to discover how the universe works at the most fundamental level; to explore the behavior and interactions of the particles and fundamental forces of nature, especially their behavior under the extreme conditions found in astrophysical situations; and to explore the processes that shape the structure and composition of the universe as a whole, including the forces which drove the Big Bang and continue to drive the accelerated expansion of the universe.

(ii) Cosmic Origins:

to discover how the universe expanded and evolved from an extremely hot and dense state into the galaxies of stars, gas, and dust that we observe around us today; to discover how dark matter clumped under gravity into the tapestry of large-scale filaments and
structures which formed the cosmic web for the formation of galaxies and clusters of galaxies; to discover how stars and planetary systems form within the galaxies; and to discover how these complex systems create and shape the structure and composition of the universe on all scales.

(iii) Exoplanet Exploration:

to search for planets and planetary systems about nearby stars in our Galaxy; to determine the properties of those stars that harbor planetary systems; to determine the percentage of planets that are in or near the habitable zone of a wide variety of stars and to measure their orbits.

(iv) Research Analysis and Technology Development:
a vital component of the astrophysics program is the development of new techniques that can be applied to future major missions: the test-beds for these new techniques are the balloons and rockets that are developed and launched from NASA’s launch range facilities.

This program also supports technology development that includes detectors covering all wavelengths and fundamental particles, as well as studies in laboratory astrophysics. Examples of these studies could include atomic and molecular data and properties of plasmas explored under conditions approximating those of astrophysical environments.

Investigations submitted to the Astrophysics research program should explicitly support past, present, or future NASA astrophysics missions. These investigations can include theory, simulation, data analysis, and technology development. The Astrophysics research program and missions are described in Chapter 4.4 of the SMD 2014 Science Plan available at [http://science.hq.nasa.gov/strategy](http://science.hq.nasa.gov/strategy).

4. Terms and Conditions

NESSF awards are made initially for one year and may be renewed for no more than two additional years, contingent upon satisfactory progress (as reflected in academic performance, research progress, and recommendation by the faculty advisor) and the availability of funds. The three-year period is the maximum length a student may receive support from the NESSF Program in pursuing a Masters or Ph.D. For example, a student supported by a NESSF award for three years prior to obtaining her/his Masters degree cannot apply to the NESSF Program for an additional three years of Ph.D. support. However, a student in the second or third year of a Masters program may use the three years of support to complete the Masters and initiate Ph.D. research.

The maximum amount of a NESSF award is $30,000 per year. Not all awards require $30,000 per year. The NESSF stipend for the student is $24K, however, the stipend should be comparable with the prevailing stipend rate on the student’s campus. Student and university allowances are nominally $3,000 each, but can be combined as long as the allowance does not exceed $6,000 total. Students are encouraged to work with their
advisor and university Office of Sponsored Research to determine the appropriate allocation in each budget category.

The fellowship may be used to defray a student’s stipend; tuition; fees; travel in support of the research investigation to conferences, symposia, or collaborative meetings; books; expendable laboratory supplies; page charges for journal articles; printing of a thesis; health insurance policy; and similar charges. Equipment, including computers, may NOT be purchased with NESSF funds. Government furnished equipment will not be provided. A NESSF budget should include itemization of the anticipated use of the grant funding. See items 14 through 17 in the 2015 NESSF Program Specific Questions.

The NESSF supports graduate education and does not provide University overhead.

5. Eligibility

This call for graduate fellowship proposals, entitled NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship (NESSF) Program – 2015/2016 Academic Year, solicits applications from accredited U.S. universities on behalf of individuals pursuing Masters or Ph.D. degrees in Earth and space sciences, or related disciplines, at respective institutions. Students admitted to, or already enrolled in, a full-time Masters and/or Ph.D. program at accredited U.S. universities are eligible to apply. Students may enter the fellowship program at any time during their graduate work. Students may also apply in their senior year prior to receiving their baccalaureate degree, but must be admitted and enrolled in a Masters and/or Ph.D. program at a U.S. university at the time of the award.

An individual accepting this award may not concurrently receive any other Federal fellowship or traineeship. If the annual cost on campus is more than the amount of the NASA fellowship, the NESSF may be partially supplemented by other forms of employment other than by another Federal fellowship or traineeship. However, NASA may allow an applicant to receive supplements from other U.S. Federal agencies to cover expenses not covered by NASA's graduate fellowships; for example, the purchase of equipment, which is not permitted through a NASA fellowship.

The NESSF Program is open to all students enrolled full-time at accredited U.S. institutions; however, U.S. citizens and permanent residents will be given preference when two or more proposals are of equal scientific merit. Students with disabilities and/or from underrepresented minority groups are urged to apply. No applicant shall be denied consideration or appointment as a NASA Earth and Space Science Fellow on the grounds of race, creed, color, national origin, age, or sex.

In accordance with Public Law 112-55, Section 539(a), proposals must not include bilateral participation, collaboration, or coordination with China or any Chinese-owned organization. Prospective NESSF fellows should not be affiliated with Chinese institutions. For more information about how NASA SMD is implementing Public Law 112-55 see http://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/faqs/#1.
6. **Obligation to the Government**

A student receiving support under the NESSF Program does not thereby incur any formal obligation to the Government of the United States. However, the objectives of this program will clearly be best served if the student actively pursues research or teaching in the field of Earth or space science after completion of graduate studies.

7. **Change of Faculty Advisor**

In the event that the faculty advisor ceases to participate in the program for any reason, the university, in consultation with the student, may nominate another faculty member to serve as the Principal Investigator of the fellowship award and the advisor of the proposed research described in the student’s original application. If there is substantial deviation from the originally proposed research, the university must provide a detailed description of the deviation, which will be reviewed by NASA for scientific merit and continued relevance to NASA before an approval is made.

8. **Disposition of Unused Funds**

In the event that a student completes his or her graduate research program prior to the renewal or expiration date of the fellowship award, or ceases to participate in the program for any reason, NASA will terminate the fellowship award accordingly, and deobligate the unused funds remaining in the award.

To minimize the amount of administrative work in the deobligation of funds, the student, the advisor, and the university must prorate the stipend and allowances required in the renewal application, if the projected schedule is less than 12 months. If the fellow completes the graduate program earlier than projected and there is only a small amount of funds (less than the equivalent of three months of support) remaining in the award, NASA may consider, on a case by case basis, leaving the unused funds on campus for use by the graduating fellow or a substitute recipient until the funds are fully expended.

9. **Proposal Evaluation and Selection**

The Directors of the science divisions of SMD at NASA Headquarters will make respective selection of applications for award on a competitive basis. Criteria for evaluation include: (a) the scientific merit of the proposed research; (b) the relevance of the proposed research to NASA’s objectives in Earth or space science as outlined above; and (c) academic excellence based upon an applicant's transcripts, the signed letter of recommendation by the student's academic advisor, the degree to which it supports the proposed research, and curriculum vitae. Evaluation will be conducted by community-based reviewers via either mail or panel review, or both, or by the relevant NASA-based program managers in the science divisions of SMD.
10. Application Procedures for New and Renewal Applicants

The student is expected to be the principal author of the application, with minimal assistance from the faculty advisor. By submitting the application for consideration, the student and faculty advisor certify that the student was the principal author of the application. Likewise, a progress report authored by the student must be submitted for fellowship renewal.

All proposals must be submitted in electronic format only. Instructions for submitting electronic proposals are located at http://nspires.nasaprs.com - click on “Solicitations,” then click on “Open Solicitations,” and then select the NESSF 2015 announcement. Also refer to “Proposal Submission Instructions” listed under “Other Documents.”

New Applications must include:

1. NSPIRES generated proposal cover page to be completed on line, which includes a proposal summary/abstract and responses to the NESSF Program Specific Data questions, **which includes the proposal budget**;
2. A description of the proposed research project, including references or bibliography, and figures and tables, as appropriate, totaling no more than 6 single-spaced uploaded pages (using an easily read font of no more than ~15 characters per inch [typically 12-point font] with at least 1-inch margins on all sides). The research plan should be presented with a clear scientific hypothesis or question(s) to be addressed by the proposed work;
3. A schedule stating the proposed start and completion dates and anticipated milestones of the applicant’s degree program (there is no standard format);
4. Curriculum Vitae of the faculty advisor and student, limited to one page each;
5. A signed letter of recommendation from the student’s academic advisor on institutional letterhead which must include the name of the student, the name of the proposing institution, and the NESSF proposal title; and
6. Unofficial, legible, and clearly unaltered undergraduate and graduate transcripts (provide an explanation if the transcripts are not current or recent). If all or part of the student’s Social Security Number or Date of Birth appears on the transcript, this MUST be blocked out prior to submission. This is the only alteration permitted to a transcript.

Please Note: All required proposal elements, which are not part of the NSPIRES cover page form must be combined into as a single .pdf document and uploaded on the NSPIRES site for submission.

**NO MAIL-IN MATERIALS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

Renewal Applications must include:
1. NSPIRES generated proposal cover page to be completed online, which includes a proposal summary/abstract and responses to the NESSF Program Specific Data questions, which includes the proposal budget;
2. A progress report, of approximately 3 to 6 uploaded pages (using an easily read font of no more than ~15 characters per inch [typically 12-point font] with at least 1-inch margins on all sides), which summarizes the work accomplished during the previous year, relating the actual accomplishments with the plan originally outlined in the proposal and/or including any unanticipated opportunities, surprises, or unusual developments; and a description of plans for the coming year, including explanations of any substantial deviation from the plan originally outlined in the proposal. Preprints or reprints may be uploaded, as appropriate;
3. An updated schedule for completing the degree program (there is no standard format);
4. A signed letter of recommendation from the student’s academic advisor on institutional letterhead which must include the name of the student, the name of the proposing institution, and the NESSF proposal title; and
5. Unofficial, legible, and clearly unaltered transcripts for any classes taken during the previous year. If all or part of the student’s Social Security Number or Date of Birth appears on the transcript, this MUST be blocked out prior to submission. This is the only alteration permitted to a transcript.

Please Note: All required proposal elements, which are not part of the NSPIRES cover page form must be combined into a single PDF document and uploaded on the NSPIRES site as a single .pdf document for submission.

The general conditions described in the NASA Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement Part 1852.235-72 (See Appendix B at http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/procurement/nraguidebook/: Guidebook for Proposers Responding to NASA Research Announcements, January 2014) are applicable, except the special instructions provided herein pertaining to NESSF (e.g., NESSF evaluation criterion (c), page limit for description of the proposed research, maximum award amount, NESSF application form, supporting documents, etc.).

Submission Deadlines:
Deadline for receipt of NEW applications: 11:59 p.m. EST, February 2, 2015
February 6, 2015 [Amended February 2, 2015]
Deadline for receipt of RENEWAL applications: 11:59 p.m. EST, March 16, 2015

Announcement of Selections:
The target date to announce selection of new applications for award is May 15, 2015
May 22, 2015 [Amended February 2, 2015], with the start date of the all new fellowship awards of September 1, 2015. The target date to notify renewal students concerning the continuation of the fellowship award applicants is June 15, 2015.
At the conclusion of the review process, notification letters will be sent to the student and faculty advisor at the university address entered on NSPIRES. New selections will be posted at http://nspires.nasaprsc.com.

Inquiries:

For further information contact:

Program Administrator for NESSF Earth Science Research – Claire Macaulay at (202) 358-0151 or by E-mail at claire.i.macaulay@nasa.gov.

Program Administrator for NESSF Heliophysics Research, Planetary Science Research, and Astrophysics Research – Dolores Holland at (202) 358-0734 or by E-mail at hq-nessf-Space@nasa.gov.
Privacy Act Statement

General

Pursuant to Public Law 93-579, Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552a), the following information is being provided to persons who are asked to provide information to obtain a NASA graduate student fellowship.

Authority

This information is collected under the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Act. Publication 85-568, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2451, et. seq.

Purpose and Uses

The information requested on the application form will be used to determine your eligibility for participation in the NASA graduate student fellowship program. The information requested regarding your disability status would be used to determine the degree to which members of each ethnic/racial/disability group are being reached by NASA's announcement of this program, and will not affect your application. Additionally, NASA may disclose this information to other organizations or individuals having relationships with NASA, including but not limited to academic organizations, nonprofit organizations, and other governmental agencies, as well as Congressional offices in response to an inquiry made on your behalf. Disclosure may also be made to concerned parties in the course of litigation, to law enforcement agencies, and to other Federal agencies in exchanging information pertinent to an agency decision.

Effects of Nondisclosure

Furnishing the information on the application form is voluntary, but failure to do so may result in NASA's inability to determine eligibility for participation and selection for award in the Graduate Student Fellowship Program. However, your application will not be affected if you choose not to provide information on your ethnic, racial, or disability status.

Definitions for Applicant Background - Section VI

- American Native or Alaskan American: A Person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.
- Hispanic or Latino: A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
- Asian: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of East Asia, Southeast Asia or the Indian subcontinent. This area includes, for example, China, India, Indonesian, Japan, Korea and Vietnam.
- Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii; the U.S. Pacific territories of Guam, American Samoa, and the
Northern Marinas; the U.S. Trust Territory of Palau; the islands of Micronesia and Melanesia; or the Philippines.

- African American, not of Hispanic origin: A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
- White, not of Hispanic Origin: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.
- Individuals with Disabilities: An individual having a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; who has a record of such impairment; or who is regarded as having such impairment.