FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)
NASA Education
2018 NASA Education Fellowship
Announcement No: NNH18ZHA003N

Updated as of 01/19/2018

Disclaimer and Technical Note: Nothing in this document should be considered as a revision or amendment to the solicitation. If there is a revision or amendment it will be formally identified as such and posted to the NASA Education page at https://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/solicitations/summary!init.do?solId={1CA633C8-7767-8658-6260-F318694A347B}&path=open.

In balancing the need to send these questions and answers out quickly, it is possible that human- and/or technology-generated errors exist in the following text. NASA’s Office of Education regrets any such errors.

- **Question 1:** What is the link to the solicitation in NSPIRES?
  
  **Answer:** The link to the solicitation is: https://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/solicitations/summary!init.do?solId={1CA633C8-7767-8658-6260-F318694A347B}&path=open.

- **Question 2:** When are the teleconferences schedule for the 2018 NASA Education Fellowship, and how do I connect to them?
  
  **Answer:** Pre-Proposal teleconferences dates and times:
  - January 24, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. E.T. or 1:00 p.m. P.T
  - January 30, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. E.T. or 2:00 p.m. P.T
  - February 5, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. E.T. or 7:00 a.m. P.T.
  
  The telecom number is 1-844-467-6272, and the passcode is 993012. The information to join the meeting via the web will be posted on the solicitation webpage once the information is available.

- **Question 3:** Are we going to have a copy of the presentation slides?
  
  **Answer:** A copy of the presentation slides will be posted on the solicitation page after the first webinar. The link to the solicitation page is: https://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/solicitations/summary!init.do?solId={1CA633C8-7767-8658-6260-F318694A347B}&path=open.
Question 4: I would like to know the guidelines to write the proposal as well as the materials and requirements. Please let me know if there is any additional information that you think is important but are not mentioned on the web page I would like to be aware of.

Answer: The guidelines for the proposal package are found page 11-19, under Section VI.

PROPOSAL and SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

A. Principal Investigator  
B. NSPIRES Registration Information  
C. Application Procedures – Phase I  
D. Application Procedures – Phase II  
E. Pre-proposal Questions and Answers

Question 5: I am interested in the NASA fellowship but I cannot find an application or further information about applying. Can you provide more information?

Answer: Please see the answer to Question 1 for the link to the solicitation.

Question 6: Section III. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION states: "In addition to his or her faculty advisor, each student will be paired with a NASA researcher (based upon the research opportunity for which the student submits a proposal), who will serve as the student’s NASA Center Technical Advisor. Fellows will work with their designated NASA Center Technical Advisor at a host NASA center during an annual 10 week Center-Based Research Experience (CBRE), typically occurring in the summer months.” I am a little confused how this process works. Do we need to identify a specific NASA Technical Advisor and CBRE opportunity beforehand? Should we be reaching out to the Center contact before the proposal to coordinate this process? (Likely Goddard in this case.) Perhaps there is a section of Appendix K that discusses this process in detailed, and I have missed it in my first reading?

Answer: NASA researchers submitted the opportunities listed in the solicitation. The proposed research shall be linked to one of these specific opportunities. The contact information is available to reach out to the NASA researchers in for baseline information about the opportunity and to ask for a Letter of Concurrence from the adviser. The NASA researcher for selected proposals will serve as the NASA Center Technical Advisor for the fellow and arrangements for the CBRE will be made at during the fall 2018.

Question 7: I am currently supported via the NSF GFRP and would like to know if it is ok to apply for this activity with the intent of forfeiting the NSF GFRP fellowship provide I am awarded the 2018 NASA Fellowship.

Answer: Yes, you can apply for the 2018 NASA Fellowship. If you are selected for this activity, you will be required to forfeit the NSF funds before the NASA Training Grant can be awarded to you.
• **Question 8**: I would like to apply to the 2018 NASA Fellowship. How can I do that?

  **Answer**: Please see the answer to Question 1, which provides the link to the solicitation. Read the solicitation, follow the Section VI. PROPOSAL and SUBMISSION INFORMATION for the proposal development and Appendix C: Step-by-Step Instructions for proposal submission found in the Other Documents. There is a link to the current version of the NASA Guidebook for Proposers for additional support.

• **Question 9**: When is the proposal application due and is it done on the NASA OSSI website?

  **Answer**: The Phase I Proposal Submission Deadline is **March 20, 2018**, by 5:59 p.m. ET or 2:59 p.m. PT, and requires that the entire proposal package is submitted. “All proposals must be submitted via NSPIRES in electronic format only. No mail-in materials will be accepted. Fellowship proposals must be submitted electronically by the Authorizing Official Representative (AOR) of the institution (see Step-by-Step Submission Instructions under ‘Other Documents’ for more information) using the NSPIRES features according to the deadline listed in this appendix. Phase I proposals must be received by 5:59 p.m. ET or 2:29 p.m. PT. Guidelines for the proposal are found in Section VI. PROPOSAL and SUBMISSION INFORMATION. If “Phase II of this solicitation requires submission of a package, via NSPIRES, by a university Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR).” The purpose of Phase II is to ensure that the selected institution completes all required forms prior to receiving a grant award. The Phase II deadline is currently May 31, 2018, by 11:59 p.m. ET or 8:59 p.m. PT.

  The process requires a proposal submission through NSPIRES and **not** an application through NASA’s OSSI website or mail.

• **Question 10**: What are the anticipated contents of this package referenced for Phase II?

  **Answer**: The Phase II package consists of the original proposal with all the documents that the NSSC requires in order to award the training grants, such as compliance forms that the institution is required to sign.

• **Question 11**: I was wondering how recommendation letters are to be included for the fellowship proposal package.

  **Answer**: Section VI.C.2.i of the solicitation states that “All three letters of recommendation must be submitted as part of the proposal package.”

• **Question 12**: Am I correct that the proposal is only supposed to be 6 pages max?

  **Answer**: It is correct that the **Project Description** section of the proposal may not exceed six single-spaced pages (using 12-point font) with at least 1-inch margins on all sides.

• **Question 13**: Does the proposed Institution need to be a Minority Institution?
**Answer:** No, the solicitation does not require the candidate to attend a Minority Serving Institution.

- **Question 14:** I am wondering if this fellowship is eligible for international graduate students. And could you send us more information about it?

  **Answer:** This fellowship requires the candidate to be a U.S. citizenship or U.S. Naturalized citizen. Please refer to the answer to Question 13 for information on international graduate students.

- **Question 15:** Are there other opportunities for International Students? It has been my dream to be associated with NASA but I have never got the opportunity since all the requirements are for US citizens.

  **Answer:** Available programs for foreign nationals are Singularity University, [http://singularityu.org](http://singularityu.org), International Space University, [http://www.isunet.edu](http://www.isunet.edu), NASA Postdoctoral Program, [https://npp.usra.edu/](https://npp.usra.edu/) and NASA I² program, [https://intern.nasa.gov/non-us-opportunities/index.html](https://intern.nasa.gov/non-us-opportunities/index.html) which is an agreement between NASA and different countries via the Space Act.

- **Question 16:** Can you apply to more than more than one NASA fellowship research opportunity?

  **Answer:** No, you can only apply to one research opportunity listed in the 2018 NASA Fellowship Activity solicitation.

- **Question 17:** I read in the solicitation that the fellowship requires a recipient to enter into a graduate program in Fall 2018 with award announcements expected to be made in May 2018. However, most graduate programs I am familiar with accept students on the basis of a minimum of two years funding entering the program. They usually admit students in Winter or Spring semesters for starting a program in the Fall. I would like to know whether a waiver might be possible for this award for someone interested in starting a Ph.D. program in Winter 2018 or Spring 2019 based on rolling admissions. I would prefer to apply for graduate studies with the department (and PI) having knowledge of the potential funding sources and the relevance to NASA’s mission.

  **Answer:** The awardee announcement for this activity will be made in May, 2018. The solicitation requires the awardee to be enrolled in a graduate degree program no later than September 1, 2018. There are no waivers or exceptions from this requirement.

- **Question 18:** I wanted to know the qualifications for this fellowship.

  **Answer:** The qualifications for the 2018 NASA Fellowship are found in Section V.A of the solicitation, Eligibility Information. Please see the answer to Question 1 for a link to the solicitation.
• **Question 19:** My situation is that I completed the requirements for my B.S this past December and although I did apply for graduate school, I still have not gotten admission responses. Am I eligible and if so how should I proceed?

  **Answer:** Yes, you are eligible to apply. Use the Step-by-Step Submission Instructions found on other documents. Pay close attention to the Notes under Submission Step 1:3 - Application Tip for Students Not Yet Accepted into a Graduate Program and Who Do Not have a PI or AOR. Please see the answer to Question 1 for a link to the solicitation.

• **Question 20:** How is the selection process going to work and how will the Centers be involved? What is the process for Center input during the evaluation stage?

  **Answer:** The NSPIRES review process is done in the NSPIRES system. The solicitation calls for three online technical reviewers to read and critique each proposal and a panel review process. Please refer to Section VII: APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION PHASE I. Selections will be based on the results of the online technical reviews, panel review, the NASA Center’s selection, and approval of the NASA Education Funding Managers and the Program Technical Officer. Please see the answer to Question 1 for a link to the solicitation.

• **Question 21:** I have recently joined a Department of Mechanical Engineering as an Assistant Professor, and one of my doctoral students and I are interested in applying for the 2018 NASA Fellowship. My student’s GPA is 2.92, and I am aware that in the announcement the GPA requirement is 3.0. I am just wondering how strict the GPA requirement is.

  **Answer:** The 3.0 GPA is a strict requirement.

• **Question 22:** What if you are finishing a MS at one institution and starting a PhD program in Fall 2018?

  **Answer:** You are eligible to apply to the 2018 NASA Fellowship activity based on the Credit and Enrollment Eligibility Requirements Chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Program</th>
<th>Number of graduate credits earned by May 31, 2018</th>
<th>The student's degree plan is continuous and full-time for a minimum of 2 years after September 1, 2018.</th>
<th>Is the student eligible for an award?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master’s</td>
<td>≤ 24 credits or 36 quarter credits</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s</td>
<td>≤ 24 credits or 36 quarter credits</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s</td>
<td>&gt; 24 credits or 36 quarter credits</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Credits Description</td>
<td>Option 1</td>
<td>Option 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Master’s</strong></td>
<td>&gt; 24 credits or 36 quarter credits</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Dual</td>
<td>( \leq ) 24 credits or 36 quarter credits</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Dual</td>
<td>&gt; 24 credits or 36 quarter credits but before a Master’s degree is confirmed</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Dual</td>
<td>&gt; 24 credits or 36 quarter credits but after a Master’s degree is confirmed</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Doctoral</td>
<td>( \leq ) 24 credits or 36 quarter credits beyond a Master’s degree</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Doctoral</td>
<td>&gt; 24 credits or 36 quarter credits beyond a Master’s degree</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Direct Doctoral</td>
<td>( \leq ) 48 credits or 72 quarter credits</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Direct Doctoral</td>
<td>&gt; 48 credits or 72 quarter credits</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All credits including research credits are included in the overall credit count.*

* A Dual degree program is defined as a program where a student works towards satisfying the academic requirements for two distinct degree types, a Master’s and Doctoral, in an integrated fashion.

* A Doctoral degree program is defined as a program where a Master’s confirmed student enters a Doctoral program.

* A Direct Doctoral degree program is defined as a program where a bachelor’s degree student enters a Doctoral program without enrolling in a Master’s program and will only be confirmed a Ph.D.

- Students are not eligible to apply if they have been awarded a Doctoral Degree in a STEM field (see Appendix B for additional information).
- Students are eligible to apply if they have been awarded a Master’s and/or a Doctoral Degree in a non-STEM degree. Examples are M.A., M.A.Ed., or M.B.A.