

# LaSPACE

## Graduate Student Research Assistance (GSRA) Program

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) & Proposal Guidelines

Offered by the Louisiana Space Grant Consortium



Under the authority of the  
NASA Space Grant College and Fellowship Program

Louisiana Space Grant Consortium (LaSPACE)  
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Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803  
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*Revised, May 2024*

*All previous versions of this program's guidelines are null and void.*

# GSRA Program Summary Page

## About the GSRA Program

The Graduate Student Research Assistance (GSRA) program is designed to augment the lower-than-average compensation levels available to promising graduate students on LaSPACE campuses and, thereby, 1) retain more U.S. students for graduate study at consortium institutions, 2) promote diversity, and 3) assist in dissertation research. The GSRA supplement is \$10,000 for a 9.5-month period and can be used for augmenting the student stipend, to defray dissertation related research expenses, and promote student research presentations at national meetings. Cost share on the award is required. Applications are judged based on aerospace/NASA relevance of the research and overall relevance to LaSPACE research and programmatic objectives. Proposals must clearly identify the Mission Directorate priority being addressed by this project. We plan to issue five to six GSRA awards each year.

## Program Summary

- Graduate student applicants must be a U.S. Citizen, currently enrolled full-time in a graduate program at a LaSPACE Affiliate Institution and be working on a research project with demonstrated relevance to NASA.
- An applicant may not apply for a GSRA if they already hold a major Fellowship or similar award.
- A student applicant cannot hold two GSRA awards concurrently. Consecutive awards are allowable, **IF** the application explicitly addresses completion of tasks from the previous award, details distinctly new objectives and tasks for the new award, includes a draft of the previous award's Final Report, and has **NO** overlapping period of performance dates for the two awards.
- Tuition Costs, Foreign Travel, and the Purchase of Capital Equipment are not allowed.
- Proposals must be signed off on by the Project PI and the Authorized Organizational Representative for Sponsored Programs at your institution.
- The final invoice and a final project report typically written by the graduate student and signed off on by the Faculty PI must be submitted to the LaSPACE office within 30 days of the project end date. Photographs and copies of all papers, presentations, and posters generated should be shared with LaSPACE as they occur and collected/referenced in the Final Report. Final Report guidelines can be downloaded from the LaSPACE website's [document center](#). A link to our new online reporting tool is also available.

## Proposal Submissions

- **Submit all properly executed proposals via email as fully searchable pdf documents to [laspace@lsu.edu](mailto:laspace@lsu.edu) by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, June 25, 2024.**
- Important Dates:
  - Solicitation Re-Release Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2024
  - **Proposal Due Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2024**
  - Anticipated Award Announcements: July 2024
  - Award Period of Performance: 08/15/2024 - 05/31/2025

# LaSPACE General Guidelines

## Introduction to the Space Grant Program

The Louisiana Space Grant Consortium (LaSPACE) is a Designated Consortium in the NASA National Space Grant and Fellowship Program network, which was designed to network colleges, universities, and state education boards with partners in business, industry, and the non-profit sector to promote, develop, and strengthen aerospace science, research, technology, education, and awareness. Our mission is “To enhance Space and Aerospace related research, education, and public awareness throughout the State of Louisiana and thereby promote math/science education, training of professionals, and economic development.” LaSPACE promotes scientific research, workforce development, and public outreach to develop and strengthen long-term research capabilities within Louisiana that will make significant contributions to the research and technology Mission Directorates of NASA while supporting the goals of the state.

## Basis of Authority

The Louisiana Space Grant Consortium (LaSPACE) currently comprises Louisiana public and private colleges and universities in addition to business/industry partners and other organizations. The consortium is funded jointly by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and by the Louisiana Board of Regents Support Fund (BORSF). The consortium is administered by the LaSPACE Council, under the aegis of NASA and the Board of Regents. The basis of authority for this and other programs of LaSPACE rests in part on the above funding. It is important, therefore, to note that the implementation of LaSPACE-supported projects must conform to applicable Federal and State regulations, in general, and to the NASA stipulations, in particular.

## NASA Agency Information

### NASA 2022 Strategic Plan

NASA’s 2022 strategic plan aligns the Agency’s future activities along three strategic themes of Discover, Explore, and Develop, as well as a fourth theme focused on the activities that will enable the Agency’s mission.

- DISCOVER references NASA’s enduring purpose of scientific discovery.
- EXPLORE references NASA’s push to expand the boundaries of human presence in space.
- DEVELOP references NASA’s broad mandate to promote the technologies of tomorrow.
- ENABLE references the capabilities, workforce, and facilities that allow NASA to achieve its Mission.

The complete plan can be downloaded [here](#).

## NASA Vision

To discover and expand knowledge for the benefit of humanity.

## NASA Mission

Lead an innovative and sustainable program of exploration with commercial and international partners to enable human expansion across the solar system and bring new knowledge and opportunities back to Earth. Support the growth of the Nation’s economy in space and aeronautics, increase understanding of the universe and our place in it, work with industry to improve America’s aerospace technologies, and advance American leadership.

## NASA Office of STEM Engagement (*formerly Office of Education*)

NASA's journeys have propelled technological breakthroughs, pushed the frontiers of scientific research, and expanded our understanding of the universe. These accomplishments, and those to come, share a common genesis: education in science, technology, engineering, and math. NASA's [Office of STEM Engagement](#) (OSTEM) delivers tools for young Americans and educators to learn and succeed. OSTEM seeks to:

- Create unique opportunities for students and the public to contribute to NASA's work in exploration and discovery.
- Build a diverse future STEM workforce by engaging students in authentic learning experiences with NASA people, content, and facilities.
- Strengthen public understanding by enabling powerful connections to NASA's mission and work.

To achieve these goals, NASA's Office of STEM Engagement strives to increase K-12 involvement in NASA projects, enhance higher education, support underrepresented communities, strengthen online education, and boost NASA's contribution to informal education. The intended outcome is a generation prepared to code, calculate, design, and discover its way to a new era of American innovation.

The National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program, from which LaSPACE is derived, is a component of the NASA Office of STEM Engagement's larger portfolio, managed at NASA Headquarters in Washington D.C., in alignment with the NASA Mission Directorates, and engagement with all NASA centers and facilities.

NASA Office of STEM Engagement, and by extension LaSPACE, supports the four strategic goals detailed in the 2018 plan. Research and design work supported by Space Grant or NASA EPSCoR must align with one or more of these strategic goals and corresponding objectives.

## NASA Mission Directorates (MD)

*Research and technology priorities are aligned with one or more of NASA's Mission Directorates:*

The [Science Mission Directorate \(SMD\)](#) expands the frontiers of Earth science, heliophysics, planetary science, and astrophysics. Using robotic observatories, explorer craft, ground-based instruments, and a peer-reviewed portfolio of sponsored research, SMD seeks knowledge about our solar system, the farthest reaches of space and time, and our changing Earth.

The [Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate \(ARMD\)](#) transforms aviation with research to dramatically reduce the environmental impact of flight and improves aircraft and operations efficiency while maintaining safety in increasingly crowded skies. ARMD also generates innovative aviation concepts, tools, and technologies for development and maturation by the aviation community.

The [Space Technology Mission Directorate \(STMD\)](#) pursues transformational technologies that have high potential for offsetting future mission risk, reducing cost, and advancing existing capabilities. STMD uses merit-based competition to conduct research and technology development, demonstration, and infusion of these technologies into NASA's missions and American industry. This mission directorate is being refocused as a new Exploration Research & Technology (ER&T) organization to support exploration as a primary customer.

The [Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate \(HEOMD\)](#) has been divided back into two MDs. The **Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate (ESDMD)** will define and manage systems development for programs critical to Artemis and plan the Moon to Mars exploration approach in an integrated manner. The **Space Operations Mission Directorate (SOMD)** will focus on launch and space operations,

including the International Space Station, the commercialization of low-Earth orbit, and eventually, sustaining operations on and around the Moon.

All NASA Space Grant subprograms must relate to and support one or more of these directorates. Likewise, all programs supported by LaSPACE must support the NASA organization, align with the NASA Strategic Plan, and support the goals of the Office of STEM Engagement.

## NASA MD Contacts for University Researchers

### Science Mission Directorate (SMD)

POC: Kristen Erickson, Director, Science Engagement Partnerships Phone: (202) 358-1017, [kristen.erickson@nasa.gov](mailto:kristen.erickson@nasa.gov)

### The Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD)

POC: Dave Berger, OSTEM Embed for Aeronautics, Phone: (661) 276-5712, [dave.e.berger@nasa.gov](mailto:dave.e.berger@nasa.gov)

### Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD)

POC: Damian Taylor, SBIR and STTR Mission, Directorate Liaison Phone: (202) 358-1432, [damian.taylor@nasa.gov](mailto:damian.taylor@nasa.gov)

### Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate (ESDMD)

POC: Greg Chavers, DAA for HEO System Engineering & Integration, Phone: (256) 544-0494, [greg.chavers@nasa.gov](mailto:greg.chavers@nasa.gov)

### Space Operations Mission Directorate (SOMD)

POC: Marc Timm Phone: (202) 358-0373, [marc.g.timm@nasa.gov](mailto:marc.g.timm@nasa.gov)

## NASA Center Liaisons

Armstrong Flight Research Center Veronica Wilson <a href="mailto:veronica.l.wilson@nasa.gov">veronica.l.wilson@nasa.gov</a>	Johnson Space Center Jakarda Varnado <a href="mailto:jakarda.w.varnado@nasa.gov">jakarda.w.varnado@nasa.gov</a>
Ames Research Center Veronica Wilson <a href="mailto:veronica.l.wilson@nasa.gov">veronica.l.wilson@nasa.gov</a>	Kennedy Space Center Patricia Gillis <a href="mailto:patricia.j.gillis@nasa.gov">patricia.j.gillis@nasa.gov</a>
Goddard Space Flight Center James Harrington <a href="mailto:james.l.harrington@nasa.gov">james.l.harrington@nasa.gov</a>	Langley Research Center Bonnie Murray <a href="mailto:bonnie.murray@nasa.gov">bonnie.murray@nasa.gov</a>
Glenn Research Center Gerald Voltz <a href="mailto:gerald.w.voltz@nasa.gov">gerald.w.voltz@nasa.gov</a>	Marshall Space Flight Center Vemitra Alexander <a href="mailto:vemitra.m.white@nasa.gov">vemitra.m.white@nasa.gov</a>
Jet Propulsion Lab Petra Kneissl <a href="mailto:petra.a.kneissl-milanian@jpl.nasa.gov">petra.a.kneissl-milanian@jpl.nasa.gov</a>	Stennis Space Center Louis Thompson <a href="mailto:louis.m.thompson@nasa.gov">louis.m.thompson@nasa.gov</a>

## LaSPACE Program

The Louisiana Space Grant Consortium, part of the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program and in partnership with the Louisiana Board of Regents, supports programs at affiliated academic institutions and other Louisiana organizations that address the NASA mission, federal CoSTEM goals, and state education and economic priorities. LaSPACE programs for Research, Higher Education, Workforce Development, K-12 Teacher Development, and Public Outreach, strengthen the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education needed for a diverse technical workforce, and develops the research and economic infrastructure to boost Louisiana's contribution to the aerospace frontier.

## Goals and Objectives

LaSPACE Goals and Objectives are directly aligned with NASA Office of STEM Engagement and National Program Emphases on Diversity, Workforce Development, Community Colleges, Pre-College teacher engagement, Competitiveness, NASA Research Relevance, Industry Relations, and State Government Involvement. The updated LaSPACE 2019 Strategic Plan describes a comprehensive program of Research, Education, and Service via 5 strategic goals, each in line with one or more NASA OSTEM objectives, to (1) Foster aerospace research and education (OSTEM 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 3.2), (2) Foster and support hands-on experiential programs for higher education students (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4), (3) Contribute to pre-college STEM education excellence (1.2, 3.1), (4) Engage and educate the general public (3.1), and (5) Maintain an effective consortium of institutions involved in LaSPACE.

Major objectives for the achievement of these goals includes (1) Support for student and faculty research at consortium institutions, (2) Strengthening interactions between Louisiana aerospace industries, faculty, and students, (3) Increased participation in Space Grant programming with the state's HBCUs and Community & Technical Colleges, (4) Provide support to undergraduate and graduate students for research, design, and internship opportunities, (5) Engage students in experiential learning environments, (6) Support middle and high school educator training, and (7) Foster informal education and public outreach. Proposals to LaSPACE programs should explicitly support one or more of these seven objectives.

## LaSPACE Program Team & Affiliate Representatives

General administration and management is the responsibility of the LaSPACE Team headquartered at LSU. Questions about applications to any LaSPACE programs should be directed to the program management team via the general [laspace@lsu.edu](mailto:laspace@lsu.edu) email address. Unless otherwise directed, all proposals, invoices, reports, and queries should also be submitted via email to the program email address ([laspace@lsu.edu](mailto:laspace@lsu.edu)). Please refer to [the LaSPACE FAQs](#) before contacting LaSPACE management and/or affiliate reps.

LaSPACE Program Office, [laspace@lsu.edu](mailto:laspace@lsu.edu), 225-578-8697

LSU Department of Physics & Astronomy | 364 Nicholson Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

T. Gregory Guzik, Director, [tgguzik@lsu.edu](mailto:tgguzik@lsu.edu) | Colleen H. Fava, Assistant Director, [colleenf@lsu.edu](mailto:colleenf@lsu.edu) |

Doug Granger, Student Flight Program Manager, [dgrang2@lsu.edu](mailto:dgrang2@lsu.edu) |

Aaron Ryan, Student Flight Program Instructor & Outreach Coordinator, [aryan21@lsu.edu](mailto:aryan21@lsu.edu)

Additionally, all member institutions have appointed an affiliate representative who sits on the LaSPACE Advisory Council and is available to discuss opportunities and processes related to LaSPACE programs. Contact information for all affiliates is provided below. For institutions with a vacancy, contact the LaSPACE program office at LSU.

## LaSPACE Affiliate Representatives

Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC)	vacant	vacant	vacant
BREC / Highland Road Park Observatory (HRPO)	Christopher Kersey	<a href="mailto:o@brec.org">o@brec.org</a>	225-768-9948
Cain Center for STEM Literacy (Cain Center)	Frank Neubrander	<a href="mailto:fneubr1@lsu.edu">fneubr1@lsu.edu</a>	225-578-4082
Delgado Community College (DCC)	Raymond Duplessis	<a href="mailto:rduple@dcc.edu">rduple@dcc.edu</a>	504-671-6419
Dillard University (Dillard)	Abdalla Darwish	<a href="mailto:adarwish@dillard.edu">adarwish@dillard.edu</a>	504-816-4840
East Baton Rouge Parish Library (EBRPL)	Mary Stein	<a href="mailto:mstein@ebrpl.com">mstein@ebrpl.com</a>	225-231-3710
Grambling State University (GSU)	vacant	vacant	vacant
LaSTEM at LA BOR (LaSTEM)	Clint Coleman	<a href="mailto:Clint.coleman@laregents.edu">Clint.coleman@laregents.edu</a>	504-352-4891
Louisiana Arts and Science Museum (LASM)	vacant	vacant	vacant
La Board of Elementary & Secondary Education (BESE)	Ann Wilson	<a href="mailto:ann.wilson@la.gov">ann.wilson@la.gov</a>	225-342-0140
Louisiana Board of Regents (BOR)	Jessica Patton	<a href="mailto:jessica.domingue@la.gov">jessica.domingue@la.gov</a>	225-342-4253
Louisiana Business and Technology Center (LBTC)	Roy Keller	<a href="mailto:rkeller@lsu.edu">rkeller@lsu.edu</a>	225-578-3985
Louisiana Civil Air Patrol (La CAP)	Jud Ertle	<a href="mailto:fergle@cap.gov">fergle@cap.gov</a>	504-756-9255
Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS)	Susana Schowen	<a href="mailto:SusanaSchowen@lctcs.edu">SusanaSchowen@lctcs.edu</a>	225-588-9944
Louisiana Economic Development (LED) FastStart	Paul Helton	<a href="mailto:paul.helton@la.gov">paul.helton@la.gov</a>	225-313-5543
Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB)	vacant	vacant	vacant
Louisiana State University and A&M College (LSU)	Stephen D. Beck	<a href="mailto:sdbeck@lsu.edu">sdbeck@lsu.edu</a>	225-578-5833
Louisiana State University at Alexandria	vacant	vacant	vacant
Louisiana State University Agricultural Center (LSU-Ag)	Wade Baumgartner	<a href="mailto:wbaumgartner@agcenter.lsu.edu">wbaumgartner@agcenter.lsu.edu</a>	225-578-7742
Louisiana State University Health Sciences (LSUHSC)	Diana Cruz-Topete	<a href="mailto:diana.cruz@lsuhs.edu">diana.cruz@lsuhs.edu</a>	318-675-4213
Louisiana State University of Shreveport (LSUS)	Urska Cvek	<a href="mailto:urska.cvek@lsus.edu">urska.cvek@lsus.edu</a>	318-675-5128
Louisiana Tech University (LaTech)	Mary Caldorera-Moore	<a href="mailto:mcmoore@latech.edu">mcmoore@latech.edu</a>	318-257-2207
Loyola University (Loyola)	Martin McHugh	<a href="mailto:mmchugh@loyno.edu">mmchugh@loyno.edu</a>	504-865-2451
McNeese State University (McNeese)	Ning Zhang	<a href="mailto:nzhang@mcneese.edu">nzhang@mcneese.edu</a>	337-475-5873
National Center for Biomedical Research & Training (LSU-NCBRT)	Jason Krause	<a href="mailto:jkrause@ncbrt.lsu.edu">jkrause@ncbrt.lsu.edu</a>	225-578-0285
Nicholls State University (Nicholls)	Matt Marlow	<a href="mailto:matthew.marlow@nicholls.edu">matthew.marlow@nicholls.edu</a>	985-448-4576
Northshore Technical Community College (NTTC)	Chuck Crabtree	<a href="mailto:charlescrabtree@northshorecollege.edu">charlescrabtree@northshorecollege.edu</a>	985-545-1231
Northwestern State University of Louisiana (NSULA)	Anna Dugas	<a href="mailto:dugasa@nsula.edu">dugasa@nsula.edu</a>	318-357-5519
Nunez Community College (NCC)	vacant	vacant	vacant

River Parishes Community College (RPCC)	Esperanza Zenon	<a href="mailto:ezenon@rpcc.edu">ezenon@rpcc.edu</a>	225-743-8713
SciPort Louisiana's Science Center	Heather Kleiner	<a href="mailto:hkleiner@sciport.org">hkleiner@sciport.org</a>	318-424-3466
Southeastern Louisiana University (SELU)	Gerard Blanchard	<a href="mailto:gerard.blanchard@selu.edu">gerard.blanchard@selu.edu</a>	985-549-2159
Southern University and A & M College (SUBR)	Michael Stubblefield	<a href="mailto:michael_stubblefield@subr.edu">michael_stubblefield@subr.edu</a>	225-771-5231
Southern University of New Orleans (SUNO)	Illya Tietzel	<a href="mailto:itietzel@suno.edu">itietzel@suno.edu</a>	504-286-5111
Tulane University (Tulane)	Mark J. Fink	<a href="mailto:fink@tulane.edu">fink@tulane.edu</a>	504-862-3568
University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL)	Afef Fekih	<a href="mailto:afef.fekih@louisiana.edu">afef.fekih@louisiana.edu</a>	337-482-5333
University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM)	Ken Leppert	<a href="mailto:leppert@ulm.edu">leppert@ulm.edu</a>	318-342-1918
University of New Orleans (UNO)	Matthew Tarr	<a href="mailto:mtarr@uno.edu">mtarr@uno.edu</a>	504-280-6836
Xavier University of Louisiana (Xavier)	Ashwith K. Chilvery	<a href="mailto:achilver@xula.edu">achilver@xula.edu</a>	504-520-5149



## LaSPACE Requirements and Restrictions

In this section, requirements and restrictions applied to all LaSPACE programs are summarized. Additional requirements and restrictions pertaining to individual programs offered by LaSPACE are detailed later in these guidelines.

### Public Nature of Applications to LaSPACE

Once an application is received in the LaSPACE office, it becomes public record. Although the staff will not disseminate applications to individuals other than to reviewers, applicants should be aware that, if a request for information is made by the public (e.g., the news media), a copy of the application, by law, must be provided.

### Disclosure of Information

All LaSPACE programs must conform to applicable Federal, State and NASA regulations and stipulations. This includes annual reporting of award participant information to both the Louisiana Board of Regents and NASA. Part of this information will include both directory information such as name, address, telephone number, date of birth, and demographic information such as gender, ethnicity, and race for all award participants including faculty, staff, and students. Further, LaSPACE outreach includes public dissemination of its supported programs through *The Newsletter*, the LaSPACE website (<https://laspace.lsu.edu/>), as well as papers and/or presentations at Space Grant or related Education & Public Outreach conferences. The contents of award reports, including participant names, titles, institution, project summaries, results or conclusions and images, might be included in such public outreach articles. It is not intended that these public articles will disclose directory or demographic information except as aggregated statistical data.

### Diversity

It is a national priority to increase diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), from university students, faculty, and staff to industry employees. Traditionally, minority groups and women have been under-represented in the STEM disciplines as students and faculty as well as in the workplace after graduation. LaSPACE is committed to addressing this priority and utilizing its programs, to the degree possible, to increase the diversity among its awardees. LaSPACE also aims to support a diverse set of institutions and disciplines. **All proposers are expected to help recruit diverse participants to their proposed projects.**

To ensure that PIs are making a reasonable effort to recruit diverse participants, a diversity recruitment plan must be included in all proposals submitted to LaSPACE. PIs should expand recruitment to include efforts with local chapters of underrepresented groups such as the National Society of Black Physicists, National Society of Black Engineers, National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers, Society of Women Engineers, etc. Even for programs where students have already been selected at the time of proposal (e.g. GSRA, LURA, HIS, etc), the general diversity recruitment plan for the PI's lab must be detailed, as well as the specific efforts used to recruit the proposed student participant(s).

### Animal Use

Any project proposing the use of an animal model for validation must include a local IACUC approval letter, fully signed, which specifies a validity period longer than the proposed project period. Failure to obtain the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee's approval in advance is grounds for returning the proposal unreviewed. Attach the IACUC material as an additional appendix.

## Human Subjects

Projects that involve human subjects are not acceptable for this program.

## Eligibility

PI must be authorized by an affiliated institution to serve as Principal Investigator on behalf of said institution. Students directly funded under programs designated as NASA NIFs programs must be U.S. citizens. Current NASA NIFs programs offered by LaSPACE: GPS, GIRAF, GSRA, HIS, Internships, LURA, LaSSO. Additional, or altered, restrictions may apply to specific programs.

## Concurrent, Overlapping, and Consecutive Awards

PIs may hold more than one LaSPACE Award concurrently with some restrictions. No student may be funded simultaneously via multiple awards in the scholarship/fellowship programs (GSRA, Fellows, LURA, LaSSO, & HIS programs). Consecutive, non-overlapping awards in these program areas may be issued to exceptional students in the midst of extended research. Proposals for additional year(s) of funding may be submitted if 1) the previous period of performance has recently passed or is 60 days or less from completion, 2) must explicitly reference the completion of proposed tasks from the current/previous award within the new proposal, **3) must include a Final Report, or preliminary Final Report if still in progress, in an appendix**, and 4) must clearly state the objectives and goals for the new proposal differentiating said goals from the prior work.

## Budgeting

Capital Equipment purchases and Foreign Travel are, in general, not allowable costs. The submitting PI is responsible for the writing of the budget. **Any requests to rebudget funds must be submitted in writing to [laspace@lsu.edu](mailto:laspace@lsu.edu) for consideration.** A completed LaSPACE Budget Revision Request Form (available for download from the [LaSPACE Document Center](#)) must be included and minimum requirements for direct student funding commitments must be met.

## Disbursement of Funds

LaSPACE Award fund distribution will be managed by the applicant's college or university, either via a cost-reimbursable subcontract if the applicant is at an affiliate other than LSU, or by transfer of funds from LaSPACE to the applicant's department for projects at LSU. The institution/department will assume responsibility for administering, distributing, and documenting costs charged to this program.

## Period of Performance

Unless otherwise stated, LaSPACE programs have a default period of performance of no greater than 9.5 months. Shorter periods of performance may be proposed, or even required by the LaSPACE office, to meet any requirements or restrictions related to the parent grant. *A proposed period of performance is provided for each program cycle on the summary page; proposers may request a different period within 60 days after our proposed start date, unless otherwise indicated and with advance permission from the LaSPACE Management team.* For the GSRA program, a period of performance of 1 semester is not appropriate.

## No-Cost Extensions

LaSPACE will no longer consider full-year No-Cost Extensions (NCEs). We may consider NCE requests for up to 6 months. We are getting more pressure from NASA to complete as much spending as possible within each program year. It is harder to justify NCEs for our subawarded projects. We need you to propose an NCE for **only**

**exactly how much additional time you need.** If we deem that there are avoidable reasons for you needing an NCE, it may be rejected. Do your best to spend according to your proposed timeline. Reach out earlier rather than later if you hit early snags.

**NCE's for ongoing projects may be submitted to the LaSPACE program office no later than 60 days before the initial project end-date.** All NCE requests must be submitted to [laspace@lsu.edu](mailto:laspace@lsu.edu) and must include a status report which addresses all accomplishments made to-date on the project (including all publications, proposals, presentations, patents, etc), where the project is in relation to the originally proposed end date, reasons why the project has been delayed, and a proposed plan for completing the project. This status report must also identify all participants on the project (students, post-docs, faculty, and staff). **We anticipate that No Cost Extensions will not be available for awards issued for the 2024-2025 program year.**

## Invoicing & Reporting Requirements

Invoices must be submitted monthly by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, beginning no later than the second full calendar month of the award period using the billing form available in our document center. Example: For awards with a period of performance of 08/15/2024—05/31/2025 the first invoice must be submitted in October by 10/15/2024 with additional invoices submitted before the 15<sup>th</sup> of each subsequent month. The final invoice must be submitted within 30 days of the of the last day of the period of performance. For the example period of performance, the final invoice would be due by 06/30/2025.

A final report must be submitted by the PI/Project Lead no later than 30 days after the project end date. Photographs and copies of all papers, presentations, and posters generated should be shared with LaSPACE as they occur and collected/referenced in the final report. Final Report guidelines can be downloaded from the LaSPACE website's document center. Please review the reporting guidelines at the start of your project to identify in advance the kinds of information you must share at the end of your award. For example, you must track participation hours & total funding per student and collect reflective statements from your students. Develop a plan to collect this info early!

Failure to submit timely invoices and reports may result in new restrictions and requirements, including a potential suspension of eligibility to apply for LaSPACE funding.

## LaSPACE Annual Meeting Participation

Funded participants are expected to make every effort to attend the LaSPACE Annual Meeting held during the fall semester on a Friday and Saturday at a different affiliate institution each year. For the 2024 meeting we will meet at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, LA on October 4 & 5. Information will be sent out to our affiliate representatives and funded awardees and posted to our website [here](#). Recently/currently funded students are expected to present a poster at the student poster session on Saturday.

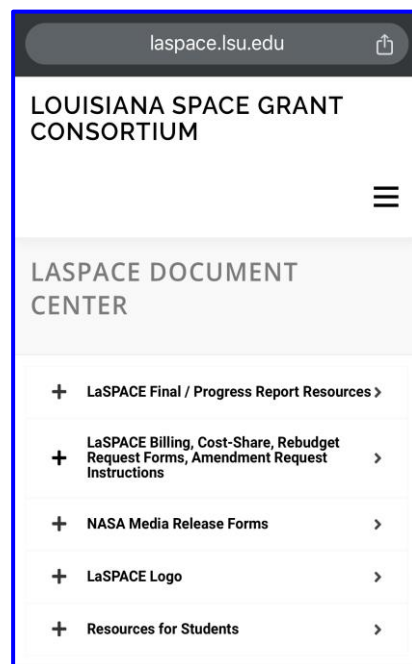


Figure 1: Screen Shot of the LaSPACE website's Document Center showing available content linked there; including Reporting Resources, Billing/Budgeting forms, Media Releases, the LaSPACE Logo, and Resources for Students.

# Graduate Student Research Assistance (GSRA) Program

## Application Guidelines

### About the GSRA Program

#### Background and Objectives

The GSRA Program serves to strengthen the educational base among member LaSPACE institutions, and to contribute to the future STEM workforce in line with Federal and State needs. The specific objectives in recruiting superior graduate students under the LaSPACE program are: (1) to encourage highly qualified individuals with interests in aerospace to continue in the field, (2) to support graduate level education in Louisiana, and (3) to develop the research infrastructure needed to grow the level of aerospace and space science R & D in the state. Objectives of the GSRA program are (i) to retain more U. S. students for graduate study on consortium campuses, (ii) to promote diversity, and (iii) to assist graduate students with thesis/dissertation research. It is a national priority to increase diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), from university students, faculty, and staff to industry employees. Traditionally, minority groups and women have been under-represented in the STEM disciplines as students and faculty as well as in the workplace after graduation. LaSPACE is committed to addressing this priority and utilizing its programs, to the degree possible, to increase the diversity among its awardees. **All proposers are expected to help recruit diverse participants to their proposed projects.** To ensure that PIs are making a reasonable effort to recruit diverse participants, a diversity recruitment plan must be included in all proposals submitted to LaSPACE.

#### Program Description

The Graduate Student Research Assistance (GSRA) program is designed to augment the lower-than-average compensation levels available to promising graduate students on LaSPACE campuses and, thereby, 1) retain more U.S. students for graduate study at consortium institutions, 2) promote diversity, and 3) assist in dissertation research. The GSRA award is \$10,000 for a 9.5-month period and can be used for augmenting the student stipend, to defray dissertation related research expenses, and promote student research presentations at national meetings. At least \$4k must be used to directly fund the student. It is not the purpose of the GSRA program to pay for research projects nor to provide general, personal supplies to the student. GSRA funds cannot be applied to student tuition. Cost share on the award is required (1:1) as is a final project report. Applications are judged on NASA relevance of the research and overall relevance to LaSPACE research and programmatic objectives. Proposals must be submitted by a Faculty advisor, who will be responsible for properly routing the proposal for required signatures/submission, for administering funds on any awards made, and for submitting reports to LaSPACE.

## Eligibility & Allowable Expenditures

To be eligible to apply for a LaSPACE GSRA Award, the graduate student applicant must meet each of the following criteria:

1. The Graduate Student must be a U.S. Citizen.
2. At the time of application, the student must be currently enrolled in graduate school at a LaSPACE Affiliate Institution.
3. The graduate work of the applicant must be relevant to NASA and in an aerospace or space sciences related field. This must be explicitly described in the application by stating the NASA Mission Directorate under which this research is aligned. Additional alignment with NASA Centers and current missions should also be identified.
4. An applicant may not apply for a GSRA if they already hold a major Fellowship or similar award. For example, if a student has an active Fellowship (BOR, NSF, DOE, other federal, etc.) that student is ineligible for a GSRA award. It is not the purpose of these NASA funds to support students already fully funded by another federal/state agency.
5. An applicant must pursue their graduate degree on a full-time basis and be registered for each semester during the proposed period of performance.
6. Any project proposing the use of an 'animal model' for validation must include a local IACUC approval letter, fully signed, which specifies a validity period longer than the proposed project period. Failure to obtain the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee's approval in advance is grounds for returning the proposal unreviewed. Attach the IACUC material as an additional appendix.
7. Projects that involve human subjects are not acceptable for this program.
8. Foreign Travel and the Purchase of Capital Equipment are not allowed.
9. GSRA funds cannot be used for tuition.
10. Proposals must be sponsored by a Faculty Mentor/PI at the affiliated university.
11. Indirect Costs are not allowed. They cannot be charged on LaSPACE funds NOR recovered on cost-share.

*NOTE: GSRA awards are not transferable to another graduate student. However, if circumstances necessitate it, a change in PI can be requested in writing.*

# GSRA Award Terms and Conditions

## Award Funds

A LaSPACE GSRA supplement carries an annual award of \$10k for graduate students seeking a Master's or Doctoral degree. Both degree levels are reviewed on an equal basis. At least \$4k must be used to directly fund the student.

## Travel & Equipment

The travel budget category is restricted to travel for the students. No foreign travel is allowed. The use of LaSPACE GSRA grant funds for the purchase of equipment is prohibited.

## Duration

A GSRA award is usually for a 9.5-month period. A period of performance of 1 semester is not appropriate. In order to complete goals, and with prior written justification, a No Cost Extension may be granted.

## Number of Awards

LaSPACE intends to issue 5 to 6 GSRA awards each year.

## Equal Opportunity / Diversity

As with all LaSPACE programs, applicants from groups under-represented in Math, Science, and Engineering are especially encouraged. African Americans, Native Americans, Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Alaskan Natives, Native Pacific Islanders, women, and persons with disabilities are strongly urged to apply. No applicant shall be denied consideration or appointment on the grounds of race, creed, color, age, gender, or disability. LaSPACE also seeks to recruit proposers from a variety of institutions and disciplines. PIs must show a commitment to Diversity by including a diversity recruitment plan. PIs should expand recruitment to include efforts with local chapters of underrepresented groups such as the National Society of Black Physicists, National Society of Black Engineers, National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers, Society of Women Engineers, etc.

## Cost-Share Requirement

The applicant's institution must commit at least a 1:1 match in non-federal and non-LaSPACE funds. The GSRA award is supplemental. It is intended to enhance or re-vitalize a graduate student's program and not to replace any current student support, and LaSPACE, as a federal-state partnership, is required to generate 1:1 matching funds on its awards. The match on GSRA awards helps us meet this programmatic requirement. The match also indicates an institution's commitment to the success of the program and investment in the student. Thus, the match requirement is an integral part of the program and must be considered in the evaluation of the applicants. Because indirect costs are waived on GSRA awards per the terms of the NASA grant, these unrecovered costs cannot be used as a cost-match.

## Indirect Costs

F & A (Indirect) charges are waived for GSRA awards as per the NASA grant. Indirect/overhead (F & A) and fringe charges are prohibited on the requested funds and cannot be recovered as part of the cost-share.

## Disbursement of Funds

GSRA Award fund distribution will be managed by the applicant's college or university, either via a cost-reimbursable subcontract if the applicant is at an affiliate other than LSU, or by transfer of funds from LaSPACE to the applicant's department for projects at LSU. The institution/department will assume responsibility for administering, distributing, and documenting costs charged to this program according to standard procedures

and consistent with all federal and state rules and guidelines. The applicant's Faculty Advisor will serve as PI for the subcontract or account. The subawarded institution must invoice LaSPACE monthly using current billing and cost-share forms available on the LaSPACE website in our document center.

### **Re-Application to the Program**

After an award term has expired, applicants may apply for another supplement in order to continue promising research and progress toward the degree. Reapplication is contingent on the availability of funds, satisfactory progress in graduate work, submission and approval of the Final Report for previous awards, and the continued fulfillment of the eligibility criteria. No re-application will be considered until the previous award's final/preliminary technical report and final financial report are submitted and approved OR an in-progress report is included as an appendix to the proposal. There can be no overlap of the periods of performance on consecutive awards.

### **Incompletion of Project**

If projects are not completed and/or deliverables not met, LaSPACE reserves the right to restrict individual PIs and campuses from participation in future programs.

### **Animal Use**

Any project proposing the use of an 'animal model' for validation must include a local IACUC approval letter, fully signed, which specifies a validity period longer than the proposed project period. Failure to obtain the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee's approval in advance is grounds for returning the proposal unreviewed. Attach the IACUC material as an additional appendix.

### **Human Subjects**

Projects that involve human subjects are not acceptable for this program.

# GSRA Proposal Requirements & Format

GSRA proposals should be submitted as fully searchable pdf documents via email to [laspace@lsu.edu](mailto:laspace@lsu.edu). A GSRA proposal **must** include the following completed sections in the order presented:

- LaSPACE GSRA Program Proposal Cover Sheet
  - Proposals must be signed off on by the Project PI and the Authorized Organizational Representative for Sponsored Programs at your institution.
- Proposed Project Summary Form
- Prior LaSPACE Awards Form
- A. Proposal Narrative (not to exceed 10 pages)
  1. Description of overall research project, current status, and project plan.
  2. Statement of how this research project is relevant to NASA Aerospace and Space Science research (See NASA Mission Directorates for more info on NASA research). Make it explicitly clear which Mission Directorate your research falls under and how your work supports the goals of said NASA Mission Directorate(s)/Center/Program Office and the overall Agency mission. Broad and general statements about relevance to NASA will not fulfill this requirement. Explicit statements about active work at NASA is required.
  3. Diversity Recruitment (explicitly describe the steps taken to encourage / recruit diverse students to your lab in general and this project in particular; include details regarding obstacles, challenges, successes, & failures in this recruitment process)
  4. GSRA Student Applicant Profile and Proposal:
    - Related Work Experience, Awards, Honors, Recognition.
    - Publications, Presentations, Patents, etc.
    - Current Financial Support (Fellowships, scholarships, Assistantships, Employment, etc.): funding amounts and commitments for funding during the duration of the proposed period of performance.
    - Career goals and professional plans post-graduation
    - Proposed work/research plan, including professional development activities for the award period. Explanation of how the LaSPACE GSRA funding will directly support the project, how the funds expended will enable progress toward the degree, and a justification of “need” for these funds.
- B. Letter of Recommendation from Faculty Mentor/PI (affirm that the applicant is in a graduate program, attest to the relevance of the applicant’s research to NASA, and speak to the applicant’s need for the supplement to further his/her graduate research objectives)
- C. Budget (LaSPACE Budget Form followed by a detailed narrative explanation of all costs. Note: Funding requests should be consistent with the level of effort proposed for the student in the proposal project plan. The PI should complete the budget section; not the student.)
- D. Student Participant List & Form Submission Confirmations page
- E. NASA Media Release Form (submitted online by PI and all identified student participants)
- F. For Consecutive Award Requests only: Include preliminary final report here for the current award

## **NOTE to Proposers:**

- Do NOT include anything that is not explicitly listed above. If you believe additional content/sections are needed, contact our office at [laspace@lsu.edu](mailto:laspace@lsu.edu) to request permission.
- Do NOT include any portion of these guidelines, including the program guidelines cover, in your proposal submission.



# GSRA Evaluation

Each proposal will be evaluated using the following evaluation form.

## GSRA Evaluation Form

<b>Institution</b>	
<b>PI Name</b>	
<b>Proposal Title</b>	
<b>Funding Recommendation</b>	

<b>Proposal Formatting and Required Contents</b>
All sections are present and in the right order

<b>Relevance to &amp; Alignment with NASA</b>
Clearly aligned to a NASA Mission Directorate and priorities

<b>Overall Quality of Proposal</b>
Clarity & quality of the proposed work and key personnel

<b>Evidence of Likely Completion of the Project</b>
Management and task plan is detailed and specific; evidence of past success

<b>Contribution to Diversity (not just student and faculty participation, but institutions &amp; disciplines)</b>
LaSPACE Program Portfolio aims to support projects around the state and not only on the same few campuses focused on the same handful of disciplines. The diversity recruitment plan followed to recruit the student for this project must be included.

<b>Budget Appropriateness</b>
Appropriate to the work and to the goals of this program. Sufficient narrative details on costs.

<b>Additional Comments</b>
Additional Comments

# Attachments

## Required Proposal Forms

### Required Forms for Proposal

All proposals submitted to LaSPACE must use the forms included following this page. Proposals not using these forms may be rejected without review.

- LaSPACE GSRA Program Proposal Cover Sheet (*Note: Proposals must be signed off on by the Project PI and the Authorized Organizational Representative for Sponsored Programs at your institution.*)
- Proposed Project Summary
- Prior LaSPACE Awards
- LaSPACE Proposed Budget Form
- Student Participant List & Form Submission Confirmations
- NASA Media Release Form (submitted online by PI and all identified student participants)

# LaSPACE GSRA Program Proposal Cover Sheet

1. Title of Proposed Project: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Principal Investigator: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Highest Degree Earned) (Citizenship)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Department)

3. Institution of Higher Education: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address/P.O. Box Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Zip Code)

5. Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Date of Submission: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Total Funds Requested: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Institutional Match: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**Certification of Compliance with Applicable Executive Orders and U.S. Code:** By signing and submitting this proposal, the signatories certify that the statements made in this proposal are true and complete to the best of their knowledge; they agree to comply with LaSPACE award terms and conditions if an award is made as a result of this proposal; and the institution and proposed project are in compliance with all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations including, but not limited to, Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 34 CFR Part 85, Section 85.510, Participant's responsibilities; Non-Discrimination; Certification against Lobbying imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code; Compliance with China Funding Restriction as detailed in Public Laws 112-10 Section 1340(a) and 112-55, Section 539; ACORN Compliance in accordance with 534 of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012 (Pub. L.112-55); and does not have a federal tax liability or federal felony conviction (sections 544 and 543 of Public Law 112-55).

8. Signature of Principal Investigator: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Graduate Student Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Name of Authorized Organizational Rep: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Signature of Authorized Organizational Rep: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Proposed Project Summary

NAME OF INSTITUTION (INCLUDE BRANCH/CAMPUS AND SCHOOL OR DIVISION)
ADDRESS (INCLUDE DEPARTMENT, BUILDING & ROOM #, CITY, STATE, ZIP)
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR NAME, TITLE, & EMAIL
STUDENT RESEARCHER NAME & EMAIL
PROJECT TITLE
NASA MISSION DIRECTORATE ALIGNMENT (Check all that apply to your project. Narrative proof for selected alignment(s) must be included in your proposal narrative.) <input type="checkbox"/> SMD <input type="checkbox"/> STMD <input type="checkbox"/> ARMMD <input type="checkbox"/> ESDMD <input type="checkbox"/> SOMD
<input type="checkbox"/> Check to confirm all named participants have completed an online LaSPACE NASA Media Release
ABSTRACT (DO NOT EXCEED 250 WORDS)

## Prior LaSPACE Awards

(Limit this list to the last 5 years)

For each prior LaSPACE award, as a PI or a Co-I please provide the following:

1. Project Title:
2. Dates:
3. Was a final report submitted? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO\*

If no, explain:

4. Did a proposal to a funding agency result? \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ YES

If yes, Agency:

Title:

Date:

Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Funded \_\_\_\_\_ Declined \_\_\_\_\_ Pending

(Add additional pages as necessary.)

## LaSPACE Proposed Budget Form

*Include this form in your proposal. Be sure to only ascribe funds to categories explicitly open to the program area to which you are applying. Following this form, include a detailed narrative explanation of all proposed costs.*

Proposal Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Investigator: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

	LaSPACE Funds Requested	Institutional Match Funds*
<b>A. Direct Labor</b>		
1. Researchers	\$ N/A	\$
2. Graduate Student(s)	\$	\$
3. Undergraduate Student(s)	\$ N/A	\$
4. Fringe Benefits	\$ N/A	\$
5. Subtotal A	\$	\$
<b>B. Supportive Expenses</b>		
1. Travel	\$	\$
2. Supplies & Materials	\$	\$
3. Communications & Equipment	\$	\$
4. Other Direct Costs (Identify)	\$	\$
5. Subcontracts	\$ N/A	\$
6. Subtotal B	\$	\$
7. F&A (Indirect)	\$ N/A	\$
<b>C. Total Project Cost</b>		
	\$	\$

*\*Must be certified on all financial billings/reports.*

## Student Participant List & Form Submission Confirmations

The Student Participant List must be completed, and online participant forms filled out in advance of submitting a proposal. Copy and complete the participant list and confirmation checkboxes below into your proposal.

Name	Classification	Major	Project Role
<i>e.g. Jane Smith</i>	<i>Undergraduate, Junior</i>	<i>Electrical Engineering</i>	<i>Electrical Design Lead; Technical Writing Co- Lead</i>

- Check this box to confirm that all students listed above have completed a LaSPACE student participant form. Include this page in your proposal.
  
- Check this box to confirm that all students listed above have completed a NASA STEM Gateway profile. Include this page in your proposal.

## LaSPACE Student Participant Form Instructions

[Link to LaSPACE Student Participant Form](#)

Please provide the following guidance to students completing the online participant form.

- The LaSPACE Student Participant Information Form must be completed in advance of submitting this application. If any section is left blank in the online form, you will be disqualified from consideration.
- Upon completion of the form, a message will appear on the screen to confirm the form was successfully submitted. Additionally, a confirmation email will be sent to the school email provided in the form. Once the email is received, it is safe to close your browser. Save the confirmation email and forward to your Principal Investigator / Project Lead. Do NOT include NOR share screenshots or copies of your demographic information. This is to protect your Personally Identifiable Information.
- The **Project PI / Lead** should be the PI who is submitting this proposal. Please provide the students with your office phone number and email address to input.
- The **LaSPACE Program** should be the program for which students are currently applying for/participating in. If working under multiple LaSPACE projects, students will submit a participant form for each separate project. For this proposal students will select GSRA.
- The **Project Start Date** is the first day of the project's Period of Performance (PoP). This is not your personal start date on the project. Confirm PoP start date in the program guidelines or ask your Project PI / Lead. Project Start date should be 8/15/2024 for students under this current proposal submission.
- The **Participating Semester(s)** is where students select their semesters of participation on the project.

## NASA STEM Gateway Profile Instructions

All students funded under any National Space Grant Program must register in the NASA STEM Gateway system here: <https://stemgateway.nasa.gov/public/s/login/SelfRegister>. Guidance on setting up your profile will be posted to the LaSPACE website.

## LaSPACE NASA Media Release Form Instructions

The LaSPACE NASA Media Release Form provides permission to LaSPACE and NASA to share your photographs in our reports, newsletters, and online channels. It must be completed in advance of submitting this application. If any section is left blank in the online form, you will be disqualified from consideration. After submitting the form, check the relevant confirmation checkbox on the Proposed Project Summary Form.

[LaSPACE NASA Media Release Form](#)

- The online form should be completed and submitted by the PI and any other named, known participants (i.e. undergraduate student researcher for a LURA / graduate student for a GSRA, etc) at the time of proposal submission. Facilitators/participants recruited later and/or featured in photos associated with the funded activities should complete their own forms before, or at the time, of Final Report submission.



- For projects that involve recruiting student participants during the active award period (i.e. Senior Design, LaACES, etc), we suggest requiring completion of this form and the student participant form on the first day of official participation by the student.
- Upon completion of the form, a message will appear on the screen to confirm the form was successfully submitted. Additionally, a confirmation email will be sent to the school email provided in the form. Save this email and have students/external participants forward to the Principal Investigator / Project Lead.
- For large-scale public events, we suggest bringing a device for folks to complete on-site releases.
- For registration-based activities, we suggest including a link to our online form in your registration materials.