



2022-2023
ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY
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Early-Stage Investigator (ESI)

Applications Open: October 28, 2022
Application Deadline: December 12, 2022
Award Announcements: February 24, 2023

Award*: up to \$10,000

**One award anticipated based on availability of funds.*

Purpose: The Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium (WSGC) Early-Stage Investigator (ESI) award supports faculty members in the development of research capacity and/or the pursuit of initial research data for subsequent proposals to the WSGC or other funding entity. Applicants must be 1) in the first five years of their first tenure-track** appointment and 2) a full-time faculty member at a [WSGC affiliate university or college](#). Proposals must show explicit alignment with the goals of one or more [NASA Mission Directorates](#).

***Full-time faculty members from colleges and universities that do not have tenure-track faculty may also apply. Applicants should include a statement regarding their faculty status and the relevant appointment policies of their institution.*

Proposed projects should:

- Develop new or enhance existing lines of research
- Involve or have the potential to involve undergraduate and/or graduate students
- Quantitatively demonstrate impact (e.g., through number of students engaged, future funding opportunities pursued, or other institutional metric of faculty effectiveness)
- Initiate or enhance research in line with one or more NASA Mission Directorates (*For more information on NASA Directorates, see spacegrant.carthage.edu/about/mission/directorates*).

Proposal Evaluation: Successful proposals will combine a robust, relevant research project with a plan that contextualizes the proposed project within a larger strategic plan for the research. Clear and measurable outcomes that are aligned with the project activities, and a detailed budget with explicit alignment to project objectives are required (See Announcement of Opportunity for [Grant Budget Proposal and Invoice Reporting Template Form](#)).

Awards will be based on the proposal topic alignment with NASA Goals, the probability of success as measured by the coherence of the project objectives and proposed activities, the significance of the research, and the likely impact of the proposed project on the applicant's professional development.

Eligibility and Application Requirements:

- Full-time faculty members within the first five years of their first tenure-track** appointment at [WSGC Affiliate universities and colleges](#) are eligible.
- Students funded through this grant must be U.S. Citizens.
- Affiliate member institutions must have [affiliate award agreement documents on file](#) with the WSGC Program Office.
- Research initiatives must align with at least one of NASA's Mission Directorates: [Aeronautics Research](#), [Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate](#), [Space Operations Mission Directorate](#), [Science](#), and/or [Space Technology](#).
- Research initiatives must focus on NASA-related activities including: earth and atmospheric sciences, astronautics, aeronautics, space sciences, and any other space-related fields (*e.g. agriculture, business, law, medicine, nursing, social and behavioral sciences, space architecture, and space biology*).
- Students funded through this grant must be U.S. Citizens.
- The Consortium especially encourages applications from women, minorities and persons with disabilities.
- Minimum 1:1 match from Affiliate campus is required.

***Full-time faculty members from colleges and universities that do not have tenure-track faculty may also apply. Applicants should include a statement regarding their faculty status and the relevant appointment policies of their institution.*

To Apply:

- Register on the WSGC website (<https://spacegrant.carthage.edu/forms/account/login>) Returning applicants will be required to update registration information annually.
- [Sign in](#) and submit the [Grant Application Form](#) (*applicants may apply to multiple funding programs*) and supporting documents.
- **NOTE:** In the award field, please select Early-Stage Investigator: Up to \$10,000.

Supporting Material Required with Application: Submit a proposal addressing each of the six elements listed below. Be sure to clearly identify each element within the proposal with a section heading. Applicants will be asked to upload the proposal at the bottom of the application. It should not exceed 10 pages, including figures.

- 1. Introduction/Summary:** Summarize the project in one page or less. Important issues to address here and in the body of the proposal are why the topic is of interest to NASA and how this project will enhance applicant's research agenda or lead to the development of a larger proposal effort to NASA or another government agency. Detail how this project aligns with the goals of one or more [NASA Directorates or Centers](#). Please be specific ([Aeronautics Research](#), [Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate](#), [Science](#), [Science Technology](#), [Other](#)). **Because the WSGC is required to demonstrate the alignment of each of our projects with NASA Directorate or Center goals, proposals that do not demonstrate such alignment will not be funded.** Provide references of related work. Be aware that not all of the WSGC review panel members are likely to be experts in this area, so make sure to provide fundamental information on the project topic.
- 2. Background:** Summarize current and previous research on the topic. Provide context for the proposed project that clearly situates the proposed work in the larger scope of published work on the topic. Demonstrates the significance and potential impact of the proposed work. Provide a brief overview of the proposer's background and employment status demonstrating alignment with the requirements of the ESI program.
- 3. Proposed Activities:** Describe the research objectives, methods and expected outcomes. Each Objective should have one or more measurable indicators of success associated with it. These measures should be sufficiently detailed to allow objective evaluation of the project in the Final Report. Indicate types of presentations and/or papers which will be a byproduct of this project. Identify and assign specific roles to all students/collaborators proposed to take part in the work, whether funded or not.
- 4. Timeline:** Provide dates indicating the project start and finish date, as well as any important milestones. Applicants will be required to submit an Interim Report and a Final Report. Periods of performance may not extend beyond March 31, 2024.

5. **Budget:** Provide a budget summary using the [Grant Budget Proposal and Invoice Reporting Template Form](#) for the proposal that describes in detail the use of funds for the proposed project including labor (people, hours, rates and total), travel (location, transportation costs, hotel costs, meal costs), participant support costs, materials and supplies, and any other costs (with equivalent detail). Indirect charges are limited to matching funds.

All funds should be expended prior to March 31, 2024.

- * A minimum 1:1 project match is required. Add more match columns if there is more than one source of matching funds. Indicate the source of each match.
- ** The ESI Program will normally provide funding for labor, including collaborators and students (students must be U.S. citizens).
- *** WSGC financially supports travel to and from the Wisconsin Space Conference only if expenses are included in this budget proposal. Domestic travel will be considered if it is fundamentally important to the project. Out-of-country travel cannot be funded. Please provide separate line items for air, ground, lodging, and meal expenses.
- **** WSGC will not [fund](#) overhead. Any institutional overhead must be applied as matching funds. Given budget limitations, we will likely not support any amount for equipment or rental of facilities. We highly recommend alternative means to purchase equipment or materials needed for the project and apply them as matching funds.

6. **CV/Personnel*:** Please include an updated two page CV. **Note: This grant only allows one Principal Investigator to be listed on the application.* Include brief qualifications for any personnel included in projects. WSGC requires a list of all students receiving funds through this grant to be submitted as outlined in the Award Agreement Letter. Students register on the WSGC application website under [Program Applications/Professional Student Programs](#).

Award Acceptance Requirements: As part of the award acceptance, awardees will be asked to attend the Annual Wisconsin Space Conference as outlined in the award agreement and submit the following documents on the WSGC application website under [Manage Applications/Current Grant Cycle Applications](#).

- Award Agreement Letter
- Institution W9
- Media Release Form
- One-Paragraph Biography
- PI Professional Photo
- Quarterly Invoices/Cost-Share Report with Supporting Documentation
- Office of Education Survey must be completed by November 15, 2023, and updated with Final Report
- Interim Report (if period of performance is greater than 6 months)
- Summary/Final Report (due 30 days after the project end date)
- Present project at the Annual Wisconsin Space Conference
- 2-3 project photos featuring faculty/students/program participants
- Alumni Story

Please direct questions about the Early-Stage Investigator program to:

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This funding opportunity is made available for the pursuit of space-related research and/or activities through the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program: NASA Educational Cooperative Agreement #80NSSC20M0123. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for this award is 43.008. Award recipients are subject to the terms of this award.

All awards are fully competitive awards of opportunity in which applications are reviewed by the WSGC Technical Advisory Panel and other experts as needed. Awards are made by the Assistant Director based on recommendations from the Associate Director.

Please follow us on     **for program updates**

