



# The Arizona Space Grant Consortium

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To Our Future Mentors,

This memo is to solicit your participation as a mentor in an undergraduate research opportunity sponsored by the University of Arizona NASA Space Grant Program. The UArizona Lunar and Planetary Laboratory (LPL) is the Home Department to Arizona's NASA Space Grant Consortium, and each year we seek a diverse group of UArizona (and local industry) researchers to act as mentors for our internship program.

Future interns are hired by LPL as student workers for the academic year (August to May) of their internship, and may work up to 20 hours per week at a \$12.50 per hour wage. Students are required by NASA to work at least 160 hours per academic year. The objectives of this undergraduate research internship experience are to 1) support and encourage undergraduates who are interested in STEM careers by giving them opportunities to engage in valuable, inspiring research projects while being paid for their efforts; and 2) to provide opportunities for STEM majors to broaden their educations with a research experience. Feedback from previous research interns and their mentors has been extremely positive, and many of our interns (~30-40% who are not graduating seniors) continue to work with their mentors after their Space Grant support expires.

Future mentors with applicable research opportunities should fill out the [Mentor Application Form](#). We look for a "NASA connection" (interpreted broadly) to all research. In addition to providing opportunities for upper-division science and engineering majors, we are particularly looking for people to mentor students who are new and "testing the waters" in STEM majors. The goal of Space Grant is ultimately to build our nation's STEM workforce. A positive and exciting internship experience can play an important role in ensuring students remain in the STEM pipeline.

This internship is funded by NASA Space Grant, and whenever possible, through the generous contributions of mentors. The UArizona NASA Space Grant Undergraduate Research Internship program works hard to engage the largest number of students possible. Each year, we are able to extend additional internship opportunities to our undergraduates through much appreciated financial assistance provided by mentors who are able to full-fund or split-fund their interns. Interns may work up to 20 hours per week (receiving \$12.50/hr plus 1.8% ERE). On average, students tend to work 13 hours per week. Thus, full-funding an intern for 30 weeks at 13 hours per week amounts to \$4,963, while split-funding an intern amounts to \$2,481.

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This is an opportunity for you to make an important contribution to encouraging UArizona students to pursue STEM while benefiting your own research program. Our aim is to support high caliber-research experiences; students should be active participants in significant aspects of the work. The competition among students for internships is keen. If you participate in the program, we will make every effort to match you with a smart and motivated student.

An undergraduate research experience can be a crucial factor in encouraging future scientists and engineers. It also serves an important role in promoting a deeper understanding of what work in the various STEM fields actually entails. All interested researchers are strongly encouraged to participate. Applications are due online by the posted due date. In addition, if you know any motivated students interested in a research experience, please encourage them to [apply for internships](#).

You may direct questions to Michelle Coe, Arizona Space Grant Manager, at [macoe@arizona.edu](mailto:macoe@arizona.edu).

*Michelle A Coe*