



## **Kentucky Space Grant Consortium 2020 Request for Proposals**

### **Special Guidance for Announcement: RFP-20-001**

Guidance Release Date: May 1, 2020

**Proposals Due: Monday, May 18, 2020, 4:00 pm ET**

Proposal files submitted online at [nasa.engr.uky.edu](https://nasa.engr.uky.edu)

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Proposal forms, FAQ, and additional information available:

[nasa.engr.uky.edu/space-grant](https://nasa.engr.uky.edu/space-grant) and  
[nasa.engr.uky.edu/requests-for-proposals](https://nasa.engr.uky.edu/requests-for-proposals)

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### Special Guidance on NASA Letters of Support During COVID-19

The **Graduate Fellowship** and **Research Initiation Award** programs available via this RFP require a letter of support from a NASA (or related) collaborator. NASA KY recognizes that many NASA collaborators have been unavailable for consultation during the open RFP period due to NASA Center closures and remote work restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, letters of support are still required for these programs.

A letter of support from a NASA (or related) collaborator should commit NASA partnership or collaboration to the project, detailing how the NASA contact will interact with the project if awarded, e.g. by providing research guidance, student mentorship, or resources such as data. Letters endorsing the value or merit of the project without committing specific collaboration to it do not qualify as letters of support. Letters of support may be from NASA or affiliated organizations including NASA Institutes/Laboratories such as JPL, Space Telescope Science Institute, National Space Biomedical Institute, TRISH, CASIS, and others. Letters of support are necessary to demonstrate that research proposals are aligned with the objectives of Kentucky Space Grant's award agreement with NASA and that Kentucky Space Grant research projects are contributing to the advancement of NASA's missions, science and research.

Although letters of support are still required for these programs, NASA KY is relaxing the requirements due to these special circumstances. Copies of email from NASA collaborators indicating intent to support the project are acceptable to submit with the proposal, as long as the email from the NASA collaborator states that the letter of support is pending. Letters may be received by NASA KY after the submission deadline, during the proposal review phase prior to June 15, 2020.

The following resources provide additional information about NASA collaboration with KY Space Grant projects:

**NASA KY FAQ #2** (<https://nasa.engr.uky.edu/requests-for-proposals/faq/>):

#### **2. As a researcher, how do I find a NASA Collaborator if I do not already have one?**

The best way for a researcher to find a potential NASA collaborator is to survey conference or journal papers authored by NASA researchers in your area. Emailing or calling them to inquire about their research will introduce your related interests and can lead to possible collaboration or the support letter you need for a submission. Contacting them may also lead to productive referrals.

Another approach is to visit the NASA research announcement system (NSPIRES) and enter keywords from your research area to find NASA technical researchers who share similar interests. Again, when talking to NASA researchers – if the topic is not their particular area – they may recommend others who are more aligned with your work.

Each NASA Center has a University Affairs Officer (UAO) who is available to help connect faculty with NASA researchers. Descriptions of NASA Centers, their research areas and points of contact are available on the NASA KY [Space Grant](#) and [EPSCoR](#) webpages.

With an invitation to visit, Kentucky faculty can apply for a NASA Kentucky EPSCoR Research Faculty Travel award to visit a NASA facility and meet potential collaborators.

**NASA KY Space Grant page** (<https://nasa.engr.uky.edu/space-grant/>) has links to **NASA technology areas and research areas of interest**, which are searchable for specific research areas.