The University of Cincinnati's Space Research Institute
for Discovery and Exploration Request for Applications (RFA)

SRIDE Fellowship for Exploration (Graduate Students)
for the 2022-2023 Academic Year

The process of discovery contributes to our nation's prowess in space exploration. In the Age of Discovery (circa 15th – 18th century), the leading nations of the day set out to explore what was unknown to them. The exploration of space will lead to greater understanding of the Earth and its place in the vastness of space. Humans living in space or on other celestial bodies will encounter new challenges in building societies. This includes not only sustainable physical structures but other critical aspects such as the formulation of exploration policies and new forms of civil society and governance in space.[1]

A prime directive of the Space Research Institute for Discovery and Exploration (SRIDE) at the University of Cincinnati (UC) is to foster growth in career paths that are aligned with our regional and national interests to discover and explore our universe with an emphasis on space travel and habitation. The Institute has established a Graduate Fellowship program – the **SRIDE** Fellowship for Exploration – to support students who show potential in advancing new ideas related to space discovery and exploration. The ***SRIDE Fellowship for Exploration*** is for graduate students pursuing their Masters or Ph.D. degrees. There are no limitations to the discipline or background of graduate students – applications from all areas are strongly encouraged.

Eligibility
- Eligible applicants include UC graduate students who have an interest in the field of space exploration.
- Eligible students must have a cumulative GPA as a graduate student at UC of 3.5 or higher.
- Eligible students must have completed at least 1 year of graduate study.

SPRING 2022 SEMESTER APPLICATION
02/15/22   RFA Released
02/15/22   Application Portal Open
04/01/22   Application Due by 5 pm Eastern
04/25/22   Awardees Announced (anticipated)
08/15/22   Earliest Start Date

Overall funding is available to support up to five $24,000 12-month graduate stipends. Applicants in this cycle will be awarded a fellowship for the Fall Semester 2022. *Note – these awards do not include tuition waivers.*

Application Submission Requirements
Applications will be submitted online via *Wizehive*, a user-friendly, internal funding software. When the application is available on the *Wizehive* platform, the live link to apply will be posted at

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[1] https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2019/12/04/universities-must-break-interdisciplinary-boundaries-help-advance-space-based

All applicants will be required to share their name, UC email, M-number, majors/minors/certifications, anticipated graduation date, name/email/department of your faculty research project advisor and project title as part of your application to this program.

Application Materials
1. Research Interest and Impact (3 pages maximum – will be uploaded as pdf).
   - PROJECT TITLE AND APPLICANT NAME
   - PROBLEM STATEMENT: What problem/research area are you passionate about related to space exploration?
   - APPROACH: Describe the general research strategy you will follow during the fellowship period to discover more about your problem/research area of interest.
   - WORKPLAN: Outline the specific research activities to be completed over the 12-month project.
   - OUTCOMES: What new knowledge/understanding or creative/technical innovations will be produced from this project?
   - IMPACT: Describe how this research project will help you achieve your academic and long-term research and career goals and any unique opportunities that this project will provide for you.
   - BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES CITED: As required (any format allowed)
   - RECOMMENDATIONS: Provide the names and emails of those will be providing the required letters of recommendation.
2. Copy of degree audit or unofficial copy of student transcript (uploaded as pdf).
3. Biosketch using provided template (3-page maximum uploaded as pdf).
4. Letter of support from Research Project Advisor who must be a UC faculty member. This letter must address how the graduate student's proposed project is distinct and separate from the faculty member's research (uploaded by applicant as pdf).
5. In addition, two letters of recommendation must be submitted by the individual letter writers by the application deadline. Letters should be sent to Research@uc.edu and must use subject line: SRIDE Exploration Letter of Recommendation for (Student Name)

Official Review Criteria
- Academic Achievements
- Research Project Merit
- Relevance to Space Exploration
- Compliance with Application Guidelines in the RFA and the Submission Portal

Review & Selection Process
Each application will be reviewed by a team of faculty reviewers representative of the diversity of the applicant pool. The review process will be managed such that no conflict of interest issues arise. The review panel recommendations for funding will be assessed by the Institute Director for final approval and funds distribution. The Office of Research Director of Business Affairs will contact awardees' College business managers to facilitate management of stipends upon awardees' acceptance of awards.

Award Conditions
- All work resulting from this research effort must acknowledge "University of Cincinnati Space Research Institute for Discovery and Exploration" as project funding source.
- Awardees are expected to participate in the annual SRIDE FELLOWSHIP Celebration Day at the end of the spring semester. More details on this event will be shared with all awardees.
- Faculty Research Project Advisors will be required to participate as SRIDE Fellowship reviewers in AY22-23.

QUESTIONS? Contact Research@uc.edu