



National Aeronautics and Space
Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center

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ANNOUNCEMENT

**SUBJECT: CALL FOR NEW AND CONTINUING ACADEMIC PROGRAM APPLICATIONS:
2009 STUDY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (SFP)
APPLICATIONS DUE: September 24, 2008**

Please note: The Academic Programs have been redesigned to support alignment with Center goals and objectives. Note the detailed changes below to: 1) the application process, and 2) the level of mission emphasis.

Applications are now being accepted for the Goddard Study Fellowship Program for entry into the Spring, Summer, or Fall 2009 semesters. The objective of this program is to allow a limited number of eligible employees to pursue advanced academic study through full-time doctoral-level study, as well as develop and maintain the diverse expertise required to accomplish Goddard's mission and attain organizational performance goals.

Employees seeking participation in the Goddard Study Fellowship Program must:

- a. be a civil service on a permanent, term, or NASA Excepted Employee (NEX) appointment at the GS-11 level or above;
- b. have worked at NASA for one year prior to December 31, 2008;
- c. **not** be enrolled simultaneously in any other Center-funded academic or development program;
- d. submit a completed online application;
- e. submit sealed, official transcripts;
- f. submit supplemental requirements for proposal; and
- g. undergo panel interview.

Changes to the application process: In an effort to increase fairness, inclusion, accountability and transparency, beginning this year, employees will apply to the SFP directly through an online application and supplemental requirements submission. Application and instructions are located at: <http://ohcm.gsfc.nasa.gov/DevGuide/DevPrograms/Academic.htm>. Once the application has received initial review, the Office of Human Capital Management (OHCM) will request supervisory and Directorate endorsement and submit all application packages for any Directorate prioritization. Completed, prioritized application packages will then go to a Center-level panel for review and approval. The Center-level panel will determine approval based on the strength of the application and the applicant's interview. Approval is not to exceed one year.

The supervisor should be satisfied that the program meets a present or anticipated need of their organization or the Center, and that enhanced employee and organization performance will be an outcome of the applicant's participation in the SFP. Employees should discuss the proposed program of study and career objectives with their supervisor.

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Interested applicants should visit the GSFC SFP web-page for additional information at <http://ohcm.gsfc.nasa.gov/DevGuide/DevPrograms/Academic.htm>. Submission of an application to the SFP does *not* guarantee acceptance. Upon acceptance to the program, all SFP participants will be required to complete the following: 1) an approved Individual Development Plan (IDP) in SATERN by December 31, 2008, 2) attend program orientation, and 3) sign a one-year Continued Service Agreement. The application must be completed online and received **no later than September 24, 2008**.

Further mission emphasis: In addition to increased scrutiny of courses for mission applicability, participants are encouraged to use work-related projects in academic studies.

NOTE: On behalf of GSFC students, the OHCM is negotiating with various universities for discounts/incentives in a variety of areas (tuition, books, application fees, as well as expanded consideration for “life experience” credit). Additional information is available on the Academic Programs website: <http://ohcm.gsfc.nasa.gov/DevGuide/DevPrograms/Academic.htm>. As additional university negotiations are finalized, the website will be updated.

Applicants interested in enhancing the quality of their application package are encouraged to attend any one of the six workshops offered entitled “Strategies for a Successful Academic Program Application.” These workshops are scheduled for: September 2nd, 5th, 8th, 12th, 15th, and 17th at Greenbelt and September 10th at Wallops. Special arrangements will be made for Independent Verification & Validation (IV&V) and Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) employees to participate.

If you have any questions please contact Renee McElrath at (301) 286-5393 or by email at: Renee.McElrath-1.nasa.gov or Michelle Dubose-Williams, Academic Programs Manager at (301) 286-5166 or by email at: Marsha.M.Dubose-Williams@nasa.gov.

I wish you much success in your academic endeavors!

Nichole Richmond Pinkney
Chief, Talent Cultivation Office