

**The University of Cincinnati Office of Research's
Armstrong Institute for Space, Technology, and Research
(ASTRO)
Armstrong Fellowship for Exploration
(Graduate Students/2025-2026 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.

A prime directive of the Armstrong Institute for Space, Technology, and Research (ASTRO) 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 Armstrong Fellowship for Exploration supports graduate students pursuing their Masters or Ph.D. degrees who show potential in advancing new ideas related to space discovery and exploration. 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 degree-pursuing students who have an interest in the future of space exploration.
- Eligible students must have a cumulative GPA as a graduate student of 3.0 or higher.
- Eligible students must have completed at least 1 year of graduate study by the start of the fellowship.
- Eligible students must be able to accept the fellowship award for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Key Dates

FOA released: January 10, 2025

Application Deadline: February 20, 2025 by 5:00 pm ET

Awardees Announced: Week of April 7, 2025 (anticipated)

Research Project Period: 2025 Fall Semester – 2026 Summer Semester

Overall funding is available to support up to **six \$35,000 12-month graduate stipends.**

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 <https://research.uc.edu/funding/overview>.

All applicants will be required to share their name, UC email, UC ID-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 a pdf).
3. Biosketch using provided template (3 page maximum uploaded as a 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 a 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: ASTRO 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

(Note: Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.)

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 before recommendations for awards are given to the Vice President for Research for final approval and funds distribution. The Office of Research Business Affairs unit will contact awardees' College business managers to facilitate management of stipends upon awardees' acceptance of awards.

Award Conditions

- **Awardee stipend amounts will be \$35,000 and the award duration will be the 2025-2026 academic year. (Requests for less than full year funding are not allowable.)**
No other UC student worker or GA/TA/RA employment outside of the home graduate program of the student is allowed during the award period. However, the home college/departmental program/faculty collaborator may supplement the stipend to match program norms.
- The Office of Research will work with awardee's college business administrators to facilitate management of the stipends. The stipend amount will be processed in the payroll system based on the stipend start date for AY25-26.
- All work resulting from this research effort must acknowledge "University of Cincinnati Armstrong Institute for Space, Technology, and Research (ASTRO)" as project funding source.
- Awardees are expected to participate in the annual ASTRO Annual Symposium. More details on this event will be shared with all awardees.
- Faculty Research Project Advisors will be required to participate as ASTRO Fellowship reviewers for the 25-26 and 26-27 academic years.

QUESTIONS? Contact research@uc.edu