

ASTRO

The University of Cincinnati Office of Research's Armstrong Fellowship for Discovery (Undergraduates only Spring Semester 2026)

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 support students with an interest in space research and space-related careers. The Armstrong Fellowship for Discovery supports undergraduate students who show potential in advancing new ideas related to space discovery and exploration. This fellowship program is for undergraduates who have completed the first two years of their academic degree program. Undergraduates of all majors are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Eligibility

- Eligible applicants are UC undergraduate degree-pursuing students who have an interest in the future of space research and space exploration.
- Eligible students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Eligible students must have completed the first two years of their academic program by the start of the fellowship.
- Eligible students must be able to accept the fellowship award for Spring Semester 2026.

KEY DATES

FOA released: September 3, 2025

Application Deadline: October 1, 2025 by 5:00 pm EDT

Awardees Announced: Week of November 17, 2025 (anticipated)

Research Project Period: 2026 Spring Semester

Overall funding is available to support up to four \$6,000 awards.

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 a 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.
 - 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 goals related to space research/exploration and comment on any unique opportunities that this project will provide for you.
 - BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES CITED: As required (any format allowed)
 - INTEREST IN SPACE EXPLORATION: A short statement that conveys your interest and passion in space exploration.
 - 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 (will be uploaded as a pdf).
3. Letter of support from Research Project Advisor who must be a UC faculty member (will be uploaded by applicant as a pdf).
4. 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 Discovery Letter of Recommendation for (Student Name)

Official Review Criteria

- Academic Achievements
- Research Project Merit
- Relevance to Space Research or Space Exploration
- Compliance with Application Guidelines in the FOA 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 that represent the intellectual 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 UC Office of Research will work with the student's home college business administrator to distribute the awards into student accounts.

Award Conditions

- **Awardee amounts will be \$6,000 for the 2026 spring semester.** The Office of Research will work with the awardee's home college business administrator to distribute award dollars into the awardee's student account. Please note, the Office of Research will contact the Student Financial Aid Office to determine if accepting this award may impact other aspects of the awardee's financial aid. The Office of Research will notify the awardee immediately if it does, so that the awardee can determine whether to continue with acceptance.
- 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.
- The awardee will provide a written report on their efforts. The Institute Director will provide guidance.
- Faculty Research Project Advisors will be required to participate as ASTRO Fellowship reviewers for AY26-27.

QUESTIONS? Contact Research@uc.edu