

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

SRIDE Fellowship for Discovery (Undergraduates) for Spring Semester 2024

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 an Undergraduate Fellowship program – the SRIDE Fellowship for Discovery – to support students who show potential in advancing new ideas related to space discovery and exploration. The *\$5,000 SRIDE Fellowship for Discovery* is for undergraduates with 2-3 years remaining in their academic degree program. Undergraduates of all majors are eligible and encouraged to apply for this Fellowship.

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 2.5 or higher.
- Eligible students must be in the last 2-3 years of their academic program.
- Eligible students must be able to accept the stipend for Spring Semester 2024.

Key Dates Spring Semester 2024

RFA released August 23, 2023

Application Deadline: September 28, 2023 5:00 pm Eastern

Fellows Announced: Week of October 30, 2023 (anticipated)

Fellowship Project Period: 2024 Spring Semester (January 8, 2024 – April 25, 2024)

Overall funding is available to support up to six \$5,000 fellowships each academic semester.

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

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 (2 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)
 - 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: SRIDE 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 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 UC Office of Research will work with the student's home college business administrator to distribute the fellowship awards into student accounts.

Award Conditions

- **Awardee fellowship amounts will be \$5,000 for the 2024 spring semester.** The Office of Research will work with the awardee's home college business administrator to distribute fellowship 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 Space Research Institute for Discovery and Exploration" as project funding source.
- Awardees are expected to participate in the annual SRIDE FELLOWSHIP Celebration Day, unless the awardee has already graduated. More details on this event will be shared with all awardees.
- Faculty Research Project Advisors will be required to participate as SRIDE Fellowship reviewers for AY24-25.

QUESTIONS? Contact Research@uc.edu