

NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship (NESSF) Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. If I have previously been a participant in the NASA Graduate Student Researchers Program (GSRP), can I apply for additional support under the NESSF?

No. Regardless of whether you participated in the GSRP or the NESSF, the award is still a NASA graduate fellowship, and you may receive no more than a total of three years of support.

2. What does the proposal page limit of six (6) include?

Within the six-page proposal length limitation must be included: a description of the research project proposed, references or bibliography, and figures and tables, as appropriate. This page limit does not include the proposal cover page or the student's degree schedule. If a proposal exceeds the six-page length limit, reviewers are under no obligation to review and/or base a recommendation on any information contained in any additional pages.

3. How do I submit the NESSF budget?

The NESSF budget requirement is addressed in the NESSF 2009 Program Specific Questions and must be submitted as item 16.

4. How do I itemize Student and University Allowances?

Since the structure of tuition, fees, and research expenses varies from campus to campus and from project to project, please work with your advisor and the university Office of Sponsored Research to propose a budget allocation that is most sensible from the points of view of your university and the proposed research project.

5. What can the NESSF allowance funding be used for?

Allowance funding in both categories (student and university) may be used for such items as tuition; fees; travel in support of the research investigation to conferences, symposia, or collaborative meetings; books; expendable laboratory supplies; page charges for journal articles; printing of a thesis; health insurance; and similar charges. Equipment, including computers, may NOT be purchased with NESSF funds. A NESSF budget should include itemization of the anticipated use of the grant funding.

6. What transcripts are required?

Unofficial, legible, and clearly unaltered undergraduate and graduate transcripts (provide an explanation if the transcripts are not current or recent) are required and must be

uploaded along with other required proposal elements as a single .pdf document for submission on the NSPIRES site.

7. What if my faculty advisor wishes to transmit my letter of recommendation confidentially?

All required proposal elements, including the signed faculty advisor letter of recommendation, must be uploaded as a single .pdf document for submission on the NSPIRES site. A faculty advisor letter of recommendation must include the name of the student, the name of the proposing institution, and the NESSF proposal title.

8. What is the format for the progress report for my renewal application?

There is no prescribed format for a renewal application. For information on what is required to be included in a renewal application, refer to Section 9. Application Procedures for New and Renewal Applicants in the NESSF 2009 solicitation posted on NSPIRES.

Progress reports are reviewed by NESSF program managers, as well as appropriate disciplinary program manager(s) in the Science Mission Directorate. There is no penalty for *brevity*, but you want to do yourself justice, particularly if you have done good work.

9. May I utilize funds from a NESSF grant for travel in support of my research investigation?

Domestic and non-U.S. travel in support of a NESSF research investigation does not require approval if it is considered by the student's faculty advisor and institution as a reasonable expenditure of grant funds.

10. For the Proposal Project Summary, why do I get a "Warning" at 300 words, yet I can continue entering my summary?

In order to briefly summarize the research investigation being proposed, it is recommended that the Proposal Project Summary field be limited to 300 words (the field will accept up to 4000 characters, including spaces and returns). At that point, a system "Warning" will be displayed. Warnings (⚠) are meant to be used as guidelines for checking a proposal prior to submission to NASA. They indicate potential discrepancies, based on typical proposal requirements. Any actions taken because of warnings are at your discretion.

11. Is it possible to request a no-cost extension of a NESSF grant?

Prior to its termination, a request may be made by the institutional office of sponsored research or similar campus organization to no-cost extend a grant in order to utilize any balance of remaining funding. The request must include a brief justification for the request, the grant number, the names of the student and the faculty advisor, an estimate of

the funds remaining, and the length of the extension requested (three, six, nine, or twelve months). After review and concurrence, the request is transmitted to the NASA Grants Office, which issues the official extension. The request should be directed to:

For Earth Science:

Anne Crouch
Science Mission Directorate
Mail Suite 3B74
NASA Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

For Heliophysics, Planetary Science, Astrophysics:

Dolores Holland
Science Mission Directorate
Mail Suite 3K39
NASA Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001