

Future Investigators in NASA Earth and Space Science and Technology (FINESST)
NNH21ZDA001N-FINESST (Astrophysics, Earth, Heliophysics, Planetary, Bio/Phys, Science Engage)

Important Information

Link to solicitation: [FINESST](#)

Link to OCG forms: <https://www.colorado.edu/ocg/fellowships>

		Comments
Proposals due	February 11, 2022	PI releases to OCG by 5 PM local time. OCG will submit via NSPIRES by CU Boulder close-of-business in advance of the 9:59 pm deadline.
Start/End Dates (typical)	Sep 1, 2022 – Aug 31, 2025	Based on the project and student’s academic plans. Must start between 8/1/2022 and 3/15/2023.
Max Duration	36 months	Must demonstrate annual satisfactory progress.
Max Award	\$50K/year; \$150K total	Submit a budget for the anticipated grant period.
Eligibility Constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Investigator (FI) is or will be pursuing a Masters and/or Ph.D. degree. FI must have applied to, been admitted to, or be enrolled as a graduate student in an Earth- or space sciences-related discipline. International students at CU are eligible; People’s Republic of China (PRC)-U.S. bilateral activities are not permitted. • FI has never previously accepted a FINESST or NESSF award OR if FI did receive support, the original grant + this new request may not exceed 36 months OR if FI replaced another student on an award, the original grant + this new request may be 36 months, provided the FI received less than \$50K from the previous award. • An FI may be listed on only 1 FINESST proposal per year. A PI has no limit on submissions. • If project falls under ITAR or EAR restrictions, then only U.S. persons may be PI and FI. • A PI may have FINESST and other (e.g., ROSES, NSF, DoD) proposals with overlapping SOW submitted at the same time. If so, this should be acknowledged in the budget justification or noted in the current & pending support section. 	
OCG Submission Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PI must send a Proposal Submission Request (PSR) to their Proposal Analyst (PA) and must accept the NASA <i>China Assurance of Compliance</i> within the PSR. • FI and PI must sign an OCG NASA FINESST Assurance Form to acknowledge NASA required post-submission notifications. 	

Summary of Application Procedures

STEP	Completed By	Required Action
1	FI & PI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register with NSPIRES - Affiliate with CU Boulder (UEI: SPVKK1RC2MZ3; DUNS #007431505; CAGE code: 4B475). Non-PI mentors need not be located at CU, but if named in proposal must be added to Nspires cover page as team members.
2	PI (mentor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create the Nspires proposal and grant the FI (<i>Role: Graduate/Undergraduate Student</i>) view and edit permissions. • Complete Nspires Proposal Team and Business Data pages. • Request HEC resources, if applicable; send request PDF to FI. • Complete a Proposal Submission Request (PSR); send to Proposal Analyst. • Sign OCG NASA FINESST Assurance Form, obtain FI signature; send to PA.

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3	FI (student)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete Nspires Summary and Program Specific Data cover pages. A Data Management Plan or an explanation of why one is not needed is required as part of the Program Specific Data questions, not in the proposal PDF. ● Coordinate budget and budget narrative with DRA and/or Proposal Analyst. ● Upload proposal PDF to Nspires. Upload HEC request PDF, if applicable.
4	PI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nspires “Release to Organization” and notify PA
5	University AOR (Proposal Analyst)	Complete Budget cover page. Review proposal for compliance. Submit application.

Elements of Proposal Document

Notes:

1. *The FI (student) must be the primary author of the project description and research readiness statement.*
- *2. **Format:** *Main body text of proposals and captions - no more than 15 characters per horizontal inch (typical of 12-point Times New Roman) and no more than 5.5 lines per vertical inch (i.e., single-spaced). At least one-inch margins on all sides; must be sized for 8.5x11 paper. No technical content may be put in the margins; page numbers or disclaimers are permitted.*
3. *A Summary Table of Work Effort and a separate Data Management Plan (DMP) section are not required.*
4. **Data:** *Proposals that require spacecraft mission data that have not been public for at least 30 days prior to the proposal due date are not compliant. The 30-days applies only to spacecraft mission data, not to other kinds of data, such as airborne campaigns, field campaigns, fieldwork, etc., or that are collected as part of the proposed research.*

Sections – Include in this Order	Pages	Requirements
<i>i. Table of Contents</i>	1	Optional, but recommended
1. Science/Technical/Management Section	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Well-defined problem, justification of scientific significance. ● Relevance to Science Mission Directorate division/program. ● Detailed description of approach to address problem. ● Period of performance, major milestones, planned publications, differentiation from ongoing research. ● Must conform to format requirements.*
2. References/Citations	No limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Standard abbreviations for journals; complete names for books. ● URLs OK, but reviewers are not obligated to follow.
3. Acknowledgement Statement	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Up to 150 words; describe any other team member roles in preparing the proposal. Affirm that the proposal is the work of the FI. Editorial and/or graphic support from a writing center, copy editor, colleagues, and peers to improve the proposal should be acknowledged, if applicable.
4. Research Readiness Statement	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How degree program & mentor prepare FI for project. ● Graduate study timeline, including est. graduation date. ● Other relevant experience. ● Must conform to format requirements.*

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5. Curriculum Vitae		<i>May include: education, professional experiences, positions, bibliography of publications, description of scientific, technical, and management experience on relevant prior efforts, skills, capabilities.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PI CV • FI CV • Additional mentor(s) CV 	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 each</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory • Mandatory • Optional for Co-I; do not include for collaborator
6. Current and Pending Statements (no required format)		<i>If the FI and/or PI have no C&P to report, include a joint statement or separate statements, if applicable, that there is "No C&P funding to report".</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PI current & pending • FI current & pending 	No limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PI must list C&P support for all ongoing and pending projects and proposals (regardless of salary support) in which they are performing or will perform any part of the work. Dollar amounts not required. List other pending FINESST proposals (zero FTE), but do not self-reference "this" proposal. • FIs must identify any external-to-CU funding, e.g., from U.S. federal, U.S. non-federal, and non-U.S. sources or active (not planned) applications for grants, fellowships, etc., emphasizing those that have overlap with the proposed work. Dollar amounts are not required, and do not self-reference this proposal. • A student working as a contractor for NASA may list the applicable dates and briefly describe the nature of the work, identifying any potential conflicts or overlaps with the proposed FINESST work.
7. Mentoring Plan or Agreement (no required format)	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared and signed by FI, PI, and any additional mentors included as team members. • Must include a statement that the FI and PI have committed to the accomplishment of the research project. • Must include a description of how the PI/Mentor will help the FI develop the required skills to successfully complete the proposed project. • Must include a commitment to regular communication to address project progress, challenges, and opportunities. <p><i>The CU Graduate School provides mentoring guidelines, including an advising agreement tool, on their website: https://www.colorado.edu/graduateschool/professional-development/mentoring/mentoring-resources</i></p>
8. Budget and Narrative <i>(See OCG templates)</i>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget: \$ by cost categories, broken down by year. • Narrative: Provide justifications of the requested amount in each category. • Additional page permitted for special documentation, such as a letter of resource support (only required if FI/PI don't have regular access to a facility/resource). • A separately uploaded "Total Budget PDF" is not required.

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9. High-End Computing (HEC) request (optional)	No limit	PI submits HEC request in NASA’s Request Management System (RMS) - https://request.hec.nasa.gov - on behalf of the FI, and saves as a PDF. FI (or PI) uploads the HEC PDF to Nspires separately from the proposal PDF file (“Appendix”).
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Budget Details

OCG has templates for the FINESST budget and FINESST budget narrative on the CU website:
<https://www.colorado.edu/ocg/fellowships>

- Maximum amount: \$50,000 per 12-months; up to \$150,000 total for 36 months.
- Not all projects require the maximum amount available in the period of performance.
- Propose partial years (less than 12 months) by prorating the stipend and allowance costs.
- NASA suggests a \$40K/\$10K allocation between stipend/allowance. If valid justification is provided, then amounts may be adjusted as long as the total amount requested does not exceed \$50,000 annually.
- Support is considered participant support costs; thus, no indirect costs may be requested.
- No salary, travel, or other costs shall be requested for the PI’s, Co-I’s, or Collaborator’s use. Exceptions are made for joint publications.
- Costs are input on the NSPIRES coversheet under letter E. Direct Costs-Participant/Trainee Support Cost. NSPIRES subcategories to use are 1) Tuition/Fees/Health Insurance, 2) Stipends, 3) Travel, and 5) Other.
- Proposals that overlap with previously submitted proposals still under consideration should acknowledge, e.g., in the budget justification, that funds are requested elsewhere.
- The purchase or lease of equipment or services in excess of \$5,000 is not permitted through FINESST awards.
- FIs may receive funding from other sources for expenses not covered by this award (e.g., to purchase equipment).

CATEGORY	PER 12 MONTHS	GUIDANCE
Stipend	\$40K	The stipend should be comparable with the prevailing rates
Allowance	\$10K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student's tuition, University fees, Health insurance policy; • FI travel and registration fees in support of the research investigation or to conferences, symposia, or collaborative meetings; • Text books or other instructional supports; • Expendable laboratory supplies; • Page charges for journal articles; printing of a thesis • Computers, digital devices, materials