

NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship Survey

Welcome! As a past NESSF proposer, you have been selected to take part in a brief questionnaire about your experiences.

Privacy Act Notification:

The information you provide via this form is protected from unauthorized disclosure in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974. It will be used by NASA for the specific purpose of implementing and evaluating STEM engagement investments. Collection of the information is authorized by the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 § 403(a)(b), 42 U.S.C. § 2473 (c)(1). Provision of the requested information is strictly voluntary. NASA may disclose information to NASA administrators and managers, Office of Management and Budget officials, and members of Congress for the purposes of accountability and tracking of program and project efficiency and effectiveness. Any information released (such as statistical summaries) will be in a form that does not personally identify you.

Elaboration and conditions of information disclosure may be found under “Routine Uses” of the full System of Records Notice at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PAI-2013-NASA/xml/PAI-2013-NASA.xml#10euda> and in Appendix B at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PAI-2013-NASA/xml/PAI-2013-NASA.xml#appb>.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:

This information collection meets the requirements of 44 U.S.C. §3507, as amended by section 2 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. You do not need to answer these questions unless we display a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The OMB control number for this collection is 2700-0159 and expires 09/30/2024.

Practical Information:

- On average, it will take about 25 minutes to complete the questionnaire. Actual time may vary depending on your circumstances.
- Your response is voluntary and failure to provide some or all of the requested information will not in any way adversely affect you.
- Your response will help NASA improve opportunities and programming for future generations of graduate students.
- We welcome you to contact amy.p.chen@nasa.gov if you have any comments or questions.
- Thank you for your participation!

Section I: NESSF Status

1. **How many times did you apply for the NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship (NESSF)?**

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- more than 5

2. **Did you receive a NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship (NESSF) offer?**

- Yes (go to 3)
- No (go to 5)

3. **Did you accept your NESSF offer?**

- Yes (go to Section II)
- No (go to 4)

4. **Why did you not accept your NESSF offer? (go to 6)**

5. **Did you pursue a graduate degree?**

- Yes (go to 6)
- No (go to 28)

6. **What were the primary sources of financial support during your graduate education? (select one)**

- fellowship/scholarship (please type name below)
- grant (please type name below)
- teaching assistantship
- research assistantship
- other assistantship (please type name below)
- internship
- loans (from any source)
- personal saving
- personal earning during graduate school
- spouse/partner or family earnings or savings
- employer assistance or reimbursement
- Type name of fellowship/scholarship, grant, assistantship, or sources not listed above.

Section II: NESSF Proposal & Dissertation Research Characteristics

7. How did you learn about the NESSF opportunity? (select all that apply)

- from my academic advisor
- from a mentor
- from a faculty member who was not my advisor or mentor
- from a friend or acquaintance
- from an ad at a conference
- NASA NSPIRES notification
- Other (please specify):

8. At the time you submitted your NESSF proposal, your academic advisor listed on your NESSF proposal...

| | agree | disagree | I don't know |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| was supported by NASA funding at the time | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| was supported by NASA funding in the past | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| participated in a NASA science team at the time | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| participated in a NASA science team in the past | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| has worked in a NASA Center during his/her career | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| has served as a NASA panelist or proposal reviewer | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| was supported by a NASA Fellowship during his/her graduate education in the past | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| was supported by, or has worked for, non-NASA space agencies at the time or in the past | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

9. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

| | strongly disagree | disagree | neutral | agree | strongly agree | not applicable |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| At the time I submitted my NESSF proposal, I knew at least one person at a NASA Center. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| At the time I submitted my NESSF proposal, I knew at least one faculty member who has a connection with NASA (receive grant fund, participate on a NASA science team, previously worked at a NASA Center, etc.) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other students in my program or research groups applied for NESSF during the same year as me. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other students in my program or research groups received NESSF before the year that I applied. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Additional comments to answers provided above (optional):

10. To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the feedbacks you received on your NESSF proposal?

| | strongly disagree | disagree | neutral | agree | strongly agree | not applicable |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| They were constructive. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| They were encouraging. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| They helped me refine my ideas for NESSF resubmission. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| They helped me refine my ideas for non-NESSF funding resubmission (NSF GRFP, DoD NDSEG, etc.) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| They helped me refine my plan for my dissertation research. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Additional comments to answers provided above (optional):

11. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

| | strongly disagree | disagree | neutral | agree | strongly agree | not applicable |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| The overall direction of my dissertation research was similar to my academic advisor's research. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The approaches I used to carry out my thesis or dissertation research were similar to the methods my academic advisor used to carry out his/her research. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Additional comments to answers provided above (optional):

12. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

| | strongly disagree | disagree | neutral | agree | strongly agree | not applicable |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| My dissertation research was high-risk. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| My dissertation research was high-impact. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| My dissertation research was interdisciplinary. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

13. Without NESSF funding, did you pursue the research you proposed in your NESSF proposal? (skip for those who answer yes to 2)

- Yes, without modification
- Yes, with some modification
- No
- Other (please specify)

Section III: Graduate Education Experience

14. How would you rate your experience as a graduate student on each of the following?

| | extremely poor | below average | average | above average | excellent | not applicable |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Advice and guidance on research projects | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Advice and guidance on post-graduation career steps | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Advice and guidance on working in NASA | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Training in research methods | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Research experience | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Assistance on job search | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Opportunities for career and professional development | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Environment for minority students | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Environment for women students | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

15. To what extent would you agree with the following statements about the faculty you interacted with while a graduate student

| | strongly agree | agree | neither agree or disagree | disagree | strongly disagree |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I was treated as a colleague by the faculty | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The faculty saw me as a serious scholar | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I often felt exploited by faculty | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Faculty considered me an asset to their projects | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

16. While in graduate school, were you required to...

How many applications for U.S. patents have named you as an inventor?

How many U.S. patents have been granted to you as an inventor?

(drop down 0 - 20 for each)

21. **Since leaving graduate school, how many papers have you presented at national and international conferences?**

(drop down 0 - 100)

22. **Since leaving graduate school, which of the following professional services/activities have you undertaken? (choose all that apply)**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conference presentation proposal reviewer | <input type="checkbox"/> Member of editorial board of professional journal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript/chapter reviewer | <input type="checkbox"/> Editor of professional journal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Departmental committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional peer review of NASA proposals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional/company-wide committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional peer review of non- NASA proposals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional organization committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Participation on a NASA science team |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local community/government committee/panel | <input type="checkbox"/> Participation on a NASA-sponsored campaign |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State-level committee/panel | <input type="checkbox"/> Involvement in K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National committee/panel | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach to K-12 professionals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Off-campus peer review panel, accreditation and certification team | <input type="checkbox"/> Participated in professional development activities for K-12 teachers |
-

23. Since leaving graduate school, how many and what types of grants/contracts have you been awarded as a PI?

| | 0 | 1-5 | 6-10 | 11-15 | 16-20 | 21-25 | 26-30 | more than 30 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| NASA | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Non-NASA US government sources (NSF, DoD, DOE, etc.) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| State government | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Local government | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Foundation | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Business/industry | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Employing organization | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Not-for-profit agency | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Professional society or association | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

24. Since leaving graduate school...

How many applications for U.S. patents have named you as an inventor?

How many U.S. patents have been granted to you as an inventor?

(drop down 0 - 20 for each)

25. Since leaving graduate school, how many of the following publications did you produce?

| | as primary author | as other co-author |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| refereed journals | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| non-refereed articles (i.e. newspaper and magazine articles, book reviews) | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| book chapters/edited book | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| book published | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

(drop down 0 - 20 for each)

(drop down 0 - 20 for each)

26. Since leaving graduate school, did you...

| | Yes | No |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Accept NASA internship position(s) offer? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Accept NASA Postdoctoral Program (NPP) offer(s)? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Accept a postdoc position funded by NASA? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Accept a postdoc position funded by a non-NASA source? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Accept a position as a NASA contractor? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Accept a position as a NASA civil servant? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

27. Since leaving graduate school, did you...

| | Yes | No |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| apply for funding as a NASA PI unrelated to NESSF or FINESST? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| receive funding as a NASA PI unrelated to NESSF or FINESST? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| apply for funding as a NASA PI on a NESSF or FINESST proposal in conjunction with a student? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| receive funding as a NASA PI on a NESSF or FINESST proposal in conjunction with a student? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| apply for funding as a NASA co-PI? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| received funding as a NASA co-PI? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

28. **At the present time, which of the following best describes your employment status?**

- employed (including self-employment, postdoctoral appointment, or on a paid or unpaid leave, including vacation) (go to 30)
- not currently working for pay (go to 29)

29. **What best describe your reason for not currently working? (select one)**

- further education (excluding postdoctoral study)
- medical conditions (i.e. chronic illness, disability, etc.)
- retired
- seeking employment
- on layoff from my job
- do not need or want to work
- family responsibilities
- Other (please specify):

30. **What type of employer are you currently working for?**

- Education - U.S. 4-year college or university
- Education - U.S. university-affiliated research institute
- Education - U.S. community or two-year college
- Education - U.S. preschool, elementary, middle, secondary school or school system
- Education - Foreign educational institution
- Foreign Space Agency
- Government - Foreign government
- Government - U.S. federal government
- Government - U.S. state government
- Other (please specify):
- Government - U.S. local government (e.g., city, county, school district)
- Government - U.S. Military service
- Government - U.S. national laboratory
- NASA Center (including HQ)
- Private Sector - Not for profit organization
- Private Sector- Industry or business (for profit)
- Private Sector- Start-up company
- NASA contractor
- Self-employed

31. **What type of employer have you worked for since leaving your graduate program? (select all that apply)**

- Education - U.S. 4-year college or university
- Education - U.S. university-affiliated research institute
- Education - U.S. community or two-year college
- Education - U.S. preschool, elementary, middle, secondary school or school system
- Education - Foreign educational institution
- Foreign Space Agency
- Government - Foreign government
- Government - U.S. federal government
- Government - U.S. state government
- Government - U.S. local government (e.g., city, county, school district)
- Government - U.S. Military service
- Government - U.S. national laboratory
- NASA Center (including HQ)
- Private Sector - Not for profit organization
- Private Sector- Industry or business (for profit)
- Private Sector- Start-up company
- NASA Contractor
- Self-employed
- Other (please specify):

32. **Is your current job an academic position?**

- Yes
 - No
-

33. **What type of academic position(s) do you currently hold?**

- President, Provost, or Chancellor (any level) Adjunct faculty
- Dean (any level), department head or chair Postdoc (e.g., postdoctoral fellow or associate)
- Research faculty, scientist, associate, or fellow Research assistant
- Non-tenure track faculty (e.g., instructor, lecturer, etc.) Teaching assistant
- Tenure-track faculty (e.g., assistant professor, etc.) Not applicable
- Tenured faculty (e.g., associate professor, etc.)
- Other position (please specify):

34. **What is the name of your current employer or most recent employer if you are currently unemployed?**

35. **What is the title of your position at your current employer or most recent employer if you are currently unemployed?**

36. **Please indicate which category your current salary, or most recent salary if you are currently unemployed, fall into (before tax). Do not include bonuses or additional compensation for summertime teaching or research.**

(drop down \$30,000 or less to more than \$200,001)

37. **Is this salary based on a 52-week year or less than that?**

- 52 week
- less than 52-week
- Please specify the number of weeks your salary is based on if less than 52-week.

38. **What are your primary and secondary work activities at your current job, or most recent job if you are currently unemployed?**

| | Primary | Secondary |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Research and development | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Teaching | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Management or administration | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Professional services to individuals | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Other (please specify):

39. **To what extent is your work on your current /most recent job related to your field of graduate studies?**

- Closely related
- Somewhat related
- Not related

40. **How valuable was your NESSF with respect to the following: (skip for those who answer no to 3)**

| | not at all valuable | neutral | somewhat valuable | very valuable |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| open doors professionally | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| having autonomy as a graduate student | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| having freedom to pursue research projects of your personal interest | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| having freedom to pursue risky research | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| having freedom to pursue high impact research projects | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| having freedom to pursue interdisciplinary research projects | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Additional comments or input:

41. Are you willing to serve as a NASA proposal reviewer/panelist?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

42. Are you willing to be contacted for a 15 min. interview?

- Yes
- No

43. What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Do not wish to provide

44. What is your ethnicity?

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino
- Do not wish to provide

45. What is your race? (Select as many as apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not wish to provide |

46. What is the highest degree that you have attained?

- Bachelor's Degree
- Master's degree (e.g., MA, MS, MBA, MSW, etc.)
- Professional degree (e.g., MD, DDS, JD, D.Min., Psy.D., etc.)
- Research doctoral degree or Ph.D.
- Other (please specify):

47. What is the highest educational attainment of your mother and father?

| | Mother | Father |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Less than high/secondary school graduate | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| High/secondary school graduate | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Some college | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Bachelor's degree | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Master's degree (e.g., MA, MS, MBA, MSW, etc.) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Professional degree (e.g., MD, DDS, JD, D.Min., Psy.D., etc.) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Research doctoral degree or Ph.D. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Do not know | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

48. Do you have a disability?

- Yes
- No
- Do not wish to provide

49. Is English your first/native language?

- Yes
- No
- Do not wish to provide

50. What is your name?

first name

middle name

last name

51. Has your name changed since your NESSF application

- yes
- no

52. What is your best contact email address?

53. **What is your best contact phone number?**

54. **Thank you for your participation! Do you have any additional input to any of the questions in this survey?**