Langley Aerospace Research Summer Scholars (LARSS) Program

Program Description

The Langley Aerospace Research Summer Scholars (LARSS) Program is managed for NASA by the Virginia Space Grant Consortium under the auspices of the National Institute of Aerospace. The LARSS program benefits rising undergraduate juniors and seniors, and graduate students who are pursuing degrees in aeronautical engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, materials science, computer science, atmospheric science, astrophysics, physics, chemistry or selected aerospace-related disciplines of interest to NASA Langley Research Center (LaRC). Students with other majors that lend support to NASA’s mission in special project areas, such as business administration, public administration, management, journalism, media arts, accounting, etc., are also invited to apply.

Program Objectives

This Center-unique program is intended to encourage high-caliber college students to both pursue and earn graduate degrees and to enhance their interest in aerospace research by exposing them to the professional research resources and facilities of LaRC. Two primary elements of the LARSS Program are: (1) a research project completed by each participant under the supervision of a researcher that assumes the role of mentor for the summer including submission of an individual technical report, and (2) technical lectures by prominent engineers and scientists. Additional elements of this program include tours of LaRC wind tunnels, computational facilities, and laboratories.

Approximately 125 students are selected each year and sponsored for a 10-week period of research under the supervision of a NASA technical mentor. The research period begins the first week of June. Participants are awarded a scholarship of $4,500 for their summer research experience. This amount is increased to $5,000 for graduate students. A “Bridge Program” has been added to LARSS which allows outstanding high school seniors and first- and second-year college students with a GPA of 3.5 or above on a 4.0 scale to be accepted for an internship, at a reduced rate of pay, providing that they have previous NASA experience, such as participation in the NASA SHARP Program, CHROME, or Governor’s School.

Eligibility Requirements

- U.S. citizenship
- Classification as a rising undergraduate junior or senior, or graduate student (master’s or doctoral level) who will be returning to school in the fall, and has a GPA of 3.0 or above.
- Classification under the “Bridge Program” as rising high school seniors and first- and second-year college students with a GPA of 3.5 or above, and previous NASA experience.
Application Process

- Completed LARSS application form (available online at http://research.nianet.org/larss).
- Resumé not to exceed two pages.
- Statement of goals, research experience, and other pertinent data.
- Official university transcripts from each university attended. Unofficial may be submitted initially followed by official if selected. (Please do not include social security number when uploading transcript.)
- Two references, names and e-mail addresses to be provided with application. References will be contacted for recommendations.

Deadline

The application and all materials for the LARSS Program must be received electronically no later than February 1.

Inquiries

Debbie Murray, LARSS Program Coordinator
NASA Langley Research Center
Mail Stop 400-LARSS
Hampton, VA 23681
Phone: (757) 864-5215; Fax: (757) 864-9701
E-mail: d.b.murray@larc.nasa.gov

URL: http://research.nianet.org/larss

Alternate Contact:
Sarah Pauls, LARSS Assistant
Phone: (757) 864-4394
E-mail: s.e.pauls@larc.nasa.gov