

Summer 2018: Undergraduate Research Associates in Astrobiology

**The Goddard Center for Astrobiology (GCA)
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD 20771**

The 2018 URAA Opportunity (Undergraduate Research Associates in Astrobiology) is a 10-week residential program for undergraduate students interested in working with scientists whose research addresses cutting-edge issues in Astrobiology. Each Research Associate (RA) will pursue a specific research topic, working directly with one of our Team scientists at Goddard Space Flight Center. The RA will work closely with the mentor to conduct a well-defined investigation, reduce data, and produce an end-of-program presentation. The presentation will demonstrate the knowledge gained over the summer, and will be given in an oral forum during the last week of the program. As a group, the RAs will meet with a different GCA Team member each week to learn more about his/her respective area of research, and to gain a broader view of Astrobiology.

- Housing is provided at the University of Maryland College Park, and paid by the GCA.
- Dates of Attendance are May 29 – August 3, 2018 (**the candidate must be available for the listed 10 week period - no exceptions!**)
- The stipend is \$5,500 for ten weeks. A modest travel allowance is also provided.
- Foreign National Students must be studying in the United States and must obtain an **Optional Practical Training (OPT)** (INS Form I-9) from their current USA University. The GCA does not sponsor Visas or OPTs.

Areas of active research include: Astrochemistry (molecular observations, theory, laboratory simulations), Primitive Materials (compositions of comets, asteroids, & meteorites through remote spectral observations and laboratory chemical/isotopic analyses of authentic samples), and Instrument Protocols for biomarker searches on Mars and ocean worlds. See <http://astrobiology.gsfc.nasa.gov>

Selection criteria for the URAA Program include:

- A demonstrated enthusiasm for and interest in Astrobiology
- Interest in scientific research
- Letters of reference from two Faculty members.
- Overall academic qualifications (honors, awards, GPA, academic transcript, etc.)

PLEASE INCLUDE WITH YOUR APPLICATION:

- **Essay (stating your interest in Astrobiology and your skills set – no application will be considered without the essay)**
- **Resume**
- **Transcript - must be official!**
- **Two letters of recommendation. Each Referee should send an original signed Letter of Reference (as a scanned PDF file) directly to the Program Coordinator (Corinne.M.Eby@nasa.gov)**

2018 APPLICATION FORM

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSOCIATESHIP IN ASTROBIOLOGY

NAME: _____
(First) (MI) (Last)

DATE OF BIRTH: ____/____/____ **GENDER:** ____Male ____Female
(month, day, year) (For Housing Purposes Only)

CITIZENSHIP IF NOT USA: Country: ____ Permanent Resident: ____Yes ____No
CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS:

(Address)

(City, State, Zip)

(Phone) (Email)

CURRENT UNIVERSITY INFORMATION:

(University Name, City, State)

(Major) (Earned GPA / Scale)

(Degree) (Date expected)

RESEARCH INTERESTS: (Refer to <http://astrobiology.gsfc.nasa.gov>)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE: (Add separate page if appropriate)

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

List all other Colleges/Universities you have attended (list those institutions at which you have completed at least one semester full-time or two semesters part-time). Include the location of the institution (city, state) dates of attendance, degree earned, and GPA.

PLEASE INCLUDE WITH YOUR APPLICATION:

- Essay (2 pages maximum, stating your interest in Astrobiology and your skills set – no application will be considered without the essay)
- Resume
- Transcript – must be official
- Two letters of recommendation. Each Referee should send an original signed Letter of Reference (as a scanned PDF file) directly to the Program Coordinator (Corinne.M.Eby@nasa.gov)
-

Signature

Date

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND ALL SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTATION IS JANUARY 26, 2018**
Any questions, please call 301-286-0120 or Email at Corinne.M.Eby@nasa.gov

Return completed materials by pdf attachments to (Corinne.M.Eby@nasa.gov), or via snail mail:

**CORINNE EBY
NASA/GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER
CODE 690, BLDG 34, ROOM W231
GREENBELT, MARYLAND 20771**