

Application Guidelines

The application will consist of proof of institutional eligibility, a research proposal linked to the NASA Astrobiology Roadmap (<http://astrobiology.arc.nasa.gov/roadmap/>), sustainability plan, institutional endorsement letters, NASA host scientist endorsement find a participating scientist at (<http://astrobiology-beta.arc.nasa.gov/nai/teams/>), curricula vitae, and the identification and qualifications of two students (sophomore and above) who will actively work with the faculty member back at their institution upon completion of the 10–week fellowship experience. These student assistants must actively participate in subsequent MIRS Faculty Incentive Award research with the faculty member.

At the close of the application period, UNCFSP project staff will compile the faculty applications and conduct an initial screen to confirm the applicant pool. Once the pool has been confirmed, UNCFSP will work closely with the NAI-MIRS Project Manager, Mentor, and Astrobiology Ambassador to review and select final applications. Once all faculty applications have been reviewed and ranked, UNCFSP will finalize all award notifications and processing.

Stipend and Travel

Faculty will receive a stipend of \$10,000 for the 10–week research experience, as well as a \$5,000 housing and travel allowance to cover cost to/from the selected NASA Research Center, and associated lodging expenses. UNCFSP will facilitate housing and travel arrangements, where necessary with the awarded faculty. Stipend payments will be issued to the faculty on a bi-weekly basis throughout the 10–week tenure. All payments will be contingent upon the faculty meeting all program guidelines and requirements.

Faculty Research Award

To facilitate the strengthening of astrobiology related curricula and infrastructure at their home institutions, faculty will be invited to submit a grant proposal that conceptualizes how NAI's strengths can be leveraged and applied to support research projects at their individual institutions. Through the Faculty Incentive Award MSI faculty will begin or expand the basic astrobiology infrastructure, curricula, research, and/or capability of their home institutions. The faculty, in conjunction with their NASA mentor, will develop a brief proposal for the MIRS Faculty Incentive Award that will enable the faculty member to continue their research with the support of undergraduate students at their home campus. Each faculty fellow who applies for the Faculty Incentive Award will detail in their proposal, ways in which they will engage at least two undergraduate students at their home institution in various aspects of their continued astrobiology research. The \$10,000 award may be used for student support, research materials, curriculum development, cross course pollination, and/or travel for both the student and faculty to present or attend meetings and conferences related to astrobiology disciplines that target students.