

## **Funding available to industry for work placements**

The UK Space Agency is offering grants of up to £3,000 for organisations to take on recent graduates (2017 or 2018) or postgraduate students for work placements in the space industry.

### **Closing Date: 5pm, 30 October 2018 or earlier if funds exhausted**

The funding, from the Agency's Space Placements in Industry (SPIN) scheme, is for projects focused on Earth Observation and Spaceflight that can be carried out by a recent graduate (graduated in 2017 or 2018) or postgraduate student in a relevant discipline.

There is a total of £30,000 funding available, with a maximum of £3,000 for each award. UK Space agency, by exception, will provide additional funding if there is a strong response from industry.

The scheme, which is supported by the Satellite Applications Catapult in Harwell, is run to support paid work placements for students or those recently graduated within the space sector. It is part of the UK Space Agency's skills and careers objectives, as set out in its [Education, Skills and Outreach Strategy](#).

This in turn supports the aims of the UK Space Agency by providing a context for students to experience the breadth of opportunities that the sector can offer, developing skills crucial to the success of the sector, supporting the growth of businesses within the sector and raising awareness of the UK's space programme and STEM subjects in general.

### **What projects are suitable?**

Your project may be targeted at a postgraduate student or recent graduate (2017 or 2018 only) of a specific discipline, or simply describe the skills you are looking for. It should outline a piece of work or role which will take a minimum of 8 weeks and be designed to enhance the skillset of the successful applicant whilst providing them with a business context in which to apply their skills. Projects submitted for this round of SPIN funding should have an Earth Observation or Launch related focus, [utilizing best practice](#) advice to engage a diverse and inclusive range of applicants.

The placement will vary from organisation to organisation and may involve:

- a piece of research or a small project that would otherwise not be done
- working as part of a team on a product or client-focused project, or something more independent
- any discipline or specialism. We encourage applications for projects that have a technical or a commercial focus

Successful projects must:

- be based in the UK in an organisation active in the specific area which is a Small or Medium Enterprise (<250 employees), university, charity, not-for-profit organisation or government agency
- or a large organisation active in the UK, for Spaceflight related projects ONLY
- support the skills aims of the UK Space Agency
- have the support of their host organisation and have a nominated supervisor
- ensure that the intern is paid an appropriate salary for the organisation as clearly described on the proposal
- include a simple evaluation strategy (regular reviews with the intern, feedback on their CV before completion, production of an academic type poster for presentation at a dedicated SPIN Showcase Event at the UK Space Conference 2019)

Placements may be extended beyond 8 weeks, by mutual agreement between the host organisation and the successful applicant.

We anticipate the following schedule:

- Opening of award scheme – 14 September 2018
- Projects will be reviewed as they are received by a team including EO and Spaceflight Programme members
- Successful projects will be advertised on the SPIN website as they are approved and for 4 weeks
- Applications received will be sent to each host organization on the working day following the closing date for their project
- Host organisations should review applications and identify successful candidates within 2 weeks of closing date
- Placements can run over a mutually agreed period, but must be completed **no later than 28 February 2019**
- Final report and invoice to be submitted no later than 12 March 2019

### Details of the Grant

Grants may cover all types of expenses, including:

- contributions to salaries
- costs of materials
- travel and subsistence

Grants may not cover:

- fees for people already in paid employment where the proposed work could be reasonably undertaken as part of their normal duties
- unclear costings and those which do not appear to be based on valid estimates
- expensive items (e.g. equipment) unless they are intrinsic to the success of the project
- grants awarded will be subject to standard BEIS grant terms and conditions

## **Judging criteria**

Proposals will be evaluated by a panel led by the UK Space Agency and awarded on a case by case basis.

The judging criteria will include:

- relevance of the project to the skills of a student or recent graduate
- relevance of the skills which will be encouraged to known sector deficits
- proposals must be relevant to Spaceflight or Earth observation programmes and from organisations active in one of these areas

You will receive a notification of your application being accepted within 48 hours of sending. If you do not receive this, we have probably not received your application.

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