The Space Life Sciences Training Program at NASA’s Ames Research Center

An Investment in Tomorrow

Overview
NASA’s Space Life Sciences Training Program (SLSTP) provides undergraduate students entering their junior or senior years with professional experience in space life science disciplines. This challenging ten-week summer program is held at NASA’s Ames Research Center in the heart of California’s Silicon Valley. The primary goal of the program is to train the next generation of scientists and engineers, enabling NASA to meet future research and development challenges in the space life sciences.

The SLSTP Experience
In this rigorous program, students work closely with renowned NASA scientists and engineers on cutting-edge research, benefiting from the concentration of bioscience expertise at Ames. In addition to conducting hands-on research, SLSTP students attend technical lectures given by experts on a wide range of topics and tour NASA research facilities.

2018 SLSTP participants at Ames getting a tour of the largest wind tunnel in operation.

SLSTP participants are exposed to a broad scope of bioscience research performed by NASA scientists. Participants acquire skills and knowledge of the tools and methodology used by NASA to conduct life science experiments in space.

Summer 2024 Update
The program will be held in-person at Ames Research Center for the summer 2024. Interns receive a stipend and the opportunity to attend a conference to present their research results.

Research Areas
Students in SLSTP undertake research projects in various areas. Examples include:

- Studies of the effects of spaceflight on living systems, conducted both on the ground and also in space aboard the International Space Station and other spacecraft.
- The development and operation of specialized research facilities to support investigations in microgravity, partial gravity, and hypergravity.
- Research and development of advanced biotechnologies that enable NASA’s exploration of distant destinations.
Information for Applicants
The SLSTP is an equal opportunity program. Admission is by competitive application process. U.S. Citizen, undergraduate students who maintain a 3.2 or higher grade point average are invited to apply. Past student participants were selected for their outstanding merit, passion for space, and desire to study space life science.

Applications for the SLSTP will be submitted through an online application found at: intern.nasa.gov. Prospective applicants who are interested in applying should subscribe to the SLSTP mailing list (https://lists.nasa.gov/mailman/listinfo/slstp) and check back for updates. Students are encouraged to submit their applications early. Please visit the SLSTP website for current information about internship opportunities and important dates.

Program Support
The SLSTP is funded by NASA’s Science Mission Directorate. The SLSTP is managed by the Space Biology Project within the Science Directorate at Ames Research Center.

For more information, contact:
arc-slstp@mail.nasa.gov

Or visit:
https://www.nasa.gov/ames/the-space-life-sciences-training-program-at-ames-research-center/

2018 SLSTP participants working together on a team building project.

2013 SLSTP students performing research using the Human Performance Centrifuge at Ames (Image Credit: NASA, Dominic Hart)