

## MARS STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT Information

**3rd Internat. Planetary Caves Conference – February 18-21, 2020 – San Antonio, TX, USA**

**Deadline: 5pm CDT December 5, 2019** (same as the abstract deadline; a *submitted abstract* is required with the applicant listed as lead-author)

The NASA Mars Program Office has announced that travel funding will be made available for undergraduate and graduate students who are U.S. citizens or legal residents, with Mars-related interests, to attend the **3rd International Planetary Caves Conference** (<https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/3rdcaves2020/>) to be held February 18-21, 2020 in San Antonio, TX, USA. To be considered for this funding, submit an application form and a first-author abstract by the deadline noted above. NASA Headquarters will make the selections and we expect to notify students by the end of December. We expect to select up to three (3) students for awards.

For each awardee, travel costs up to **\$1000.00** will be reimbursed according to JPL/government-specified allowances. Reimbursable costs include transportation (e.g., airfare, mileage to/from airport, parking, rental car or rides), workshop registration, and lodging/per diem. Note that in most cases, actual expenses will exceed the funding provided. For reference, lodging/per diem rates can be found at [www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov) and generally flights are required to be on US-carriers.

*Note:* Students who are depending on travel assistance should not make travel arrangements or pay the registration fee until they have been notified that they have received an award. If you are requesting funds to travel to the conference from outside the U.S., you should also wait until you have successfully completed NASA's foreign travel approval process. Failure to comply with this requirement may prohibit reimbursement.

### Eligibility:

- Student must be a student at a U.S. citizen, legal resident, or attending a U.S. institution on a valid visa.
- Student must be over 18 years of age.
- Student must be enrolled at a university at the time of the conference or the semester immediately before the conference (if during break).
- Student must submit a (1) completed **application form** and (2) forwarded **copy of the email confirmation** for your submitted first-author abstract to Dr. Serina Diniega ([serina.diniega@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:serina.diniega@jpl.nasa.gov)) by the deadline.

Interested students with questions are encouraged to contact Dr. Serina Diniega (Mars Program Office: [serina.diniega@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:serina.diniega@jpl.nasa.gov) or 818-393-1487 – email is strongly recommended).

### Instructions:

1. Please fill out the application online at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc\\_wOfPsDlfHFWNNuy6fORamMfuErKJTPCKUu5eBgJCLjxzbQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc_wOfPsDlfHFWNNuy6fORamMfuErKJTPCKUu5eBgJCLjxzbQ/viewform)  
Note that if you submit more than one form (before the deadline), the one with the latest timestamp will be used as your final submission.
2. Forward a copy of the emailed confirmation for your abstract submission to Dr. Serina Diniega ([serina.diniega@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:serina.diniega@jpl.nasa.gov)) by the application deadline.

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### The application will ask:

Full name

U.S. Citizen? *If no, indicate status as a legal resident (including visa type, country of citizenship, etc.).*

University, Department, Degree/year expected (e.g., PhD 2016 Geology):

Advisor name

Thesis title (can be tentative - the aim is to (concisely) identify what you are working on)

Your contact information: Email, Phone (day)

1. What is your research topic (should be a more thorough description than “thesis title”)?
2. How is your research relevant to the Mars Exploration Program? (i.e., how does your research contribute towards Planetary Science Decadal Survey Goals, MEPAG Goals, specific missions, etc.)
3. How would attending this conference benefit your research and planned future career?

In answering the questions: Use as much space as seems necessary, but brevity is appreciated; most students provide ~1 paragraph per answer. Note that answers to some of the questions can very easily sound the same between applications; being specific can help you stand out.