

Space Placement in INdustry (SPIN) - Award Scheme

Announcement of Opportunity

Closing Date: 5pm, 30 January 2018

The UK Space Agency, supported by their delivery partner the Satellite Applications Catapult, is making up to £30k available under its “SPIN” placement award scheme for Earth observation projects that can be carried out by a recent graduate or postgraduate student in a relevant discipline. This is a competitive process which offers small grants up to a maximum of £3,000 for each award. The scheme is run to support the provision of paid work placements for students or those recently graduated within small and medium enterprises (SMEs), universities, charities, not-for-profits or government agencies within the space sector and to fulfill the skills and careers aims and objectives of the UK Space Agency education programme, 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 student or graduate 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 focus.

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

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

Successful projects must:

- be based in the UK with a Small or Medium Enterprise (<250 employees), university, charity, not-for-profit organisation or government agency
- 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 poster for presentation at the SPIN Showcase Event in autumn 2018 date tbc)
- identify and nominate the successful applicant no later than 21 February 2018 to start no later than 7 March, 2018

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 or buildings) 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 judged by a panel led by the UK Space Agency. 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

How to apply

Complete the **application form** and send to the UK Space Agency **before or by the closing date (see above)**.

The applicant must represent the organisation that will take financial responsibility for any award received.

Submitting your application:

Please complete and submit the application form to Kathie Bowden either by email

(Katharine.Bowden@ukspaceagency.bis.gsi.gov.uk) or by post to:

Kathie Bowden
UK Space Agency
Polaris House
North Star Avenue
Swindon
SN2 1SZ

To arrive by: 5pm, 30 January 2018.