

# STUDENT PROGRAM

Norfolk, VA

June 23 – 26  
2025

**NSMMS**  
NATIONAL SPACE & MISSILE MATERIALS SYMPOSIUM

**CRASTE**  
COMMERCIAL AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSIVE ACCESS TO  
SPACE TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE

NSMMS & CRASTE are pleased to announce the student program for the 2025 event! Our committees recognize the importance of engaging and inspiring students in these fields to strengthen workforce development across the industry and help usher in a capable next generation of engineers and research scientists who will one day take lead in our country's space pursuits.

The 2025 Student Program is designed to encourage collegiate student participation at both the event and in the space community, provide an opportunity to expand student's knowledge by listening to and interacting with the experts in the field, provide networking opportunities between students and their future employers, and promote excellence in research and technology.

## CASH AWARDS AND TRAVEL GRANTS

Sponsored by Northrop Grumman

### Best Oral Presentation:

1st Place - \$1200

2nd Place - \$600

3rd Place - \$200

### Best Poster Presentation:

1st Place - \$500

2nd Place - \$300

3rd Place - \$200

**Grants Up to \$900!**

## STUDENT PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- » Student Travel Grants
- » Work Share Program
- » Oral & Poster Presentation Opportunities
- » Student Excellence Cash Awards for Oral Presentations
- » Student Excellence Cash Awards for Poster Presentations
- » Networking Functions
- » Resume & Job Boards (Onsite and Online)
- » Reduced Student Registration Fee

## PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Full-time graduate or undergraduate students in an engineering or related program, in good academic standing, are eligible to participate. Detailed descriptions of the program elements can be found on the following pages. All participants:

1. Must be a U.S. born or naturalized citizen. (Required for program elements #1-8.)
2. Must have an active DD2345 (military and government employees are exempt). Students do not need individual DD2345 certifications but must fall under their university's DD2345. See the security page at [www.usasymposium.com/space/security.php](http://www.usasymposium.com/space/security.php) for more information on this. (Required for program elements #1-8.)
3. Must meet one of the following criteria: taking summer courses, doing research over the summer, working an internship over the summer, or have an endorsement from their advisor/school verifying they were taking courses prior to summer break and/or are scheduled to resume courses after summer break. (Required for program elements #1, 3-6, 8.)
4. Must submit an abstract on their suggested topic (300 words or less). (Required for program elements #1, 3, 4, & 5.)
5. Must submit a personal statement along with their university transcript. (Required for program element #4 if interested in being considered for the \$2000 in cash awards for top three oral presentations.)

FOR DETAILS ON THE NSMMS & CRASTE STUDENT PROGRAM, VISIT  
[HTTPS://WWW.USASYMPOSIUM.COM/SPACE/STUDENT.PHP](https://www.usasymposium.com/space/student.php)

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## PROGRAM FEATURE DETAILS

**1. Submit Your Student Travel Grant Applications:** Travel grant recipients are required to present their research, through an oral or poster presentation at the event. To be considered for oral presentation, abstracts and applications must be submitted by **7 January 2025**. (After this date, applicants can only be considered for poster presentations.) Grant funds can be applied towards travel and student registration expenses, with funding typically available up to \$900. To submit a travel grant application, visit [www.usasymposium.com/space/student.php](http://www.usasymposium.com/space/student.php). Applicants will be notified of their grant award in February or within two weeks of submitting application if submitted after February. There are a limited number of grants so we recommend you submit your application early.

### IMPORTANT DATES

**7 January 2025**

» Student Abstract Due Date  
» Personal Statement and Transcripts Due for Oral Presentation Submissions

**23-26 June 2025**  
Conference Dates

**2. Work Share Program:** *Student grant recipients are encouraged to participate in the Work Share Program to help extend the value of their grant funds.* The work share program offers complimentary registration to NSMMS & CRASTE in exchange for working approximately 20 hours at the conference as either an Audio-Visual Support Assistant in the technical sessions or a Door Guard/Badge Checker. We will make every effort to coordinate volunteers' work schedules with the days they would like to attend sessions. Training will be provided onsite. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Amy Voisard at [avoisard@blue52productions.com](mailto:avoisard@blue52productions.com) or indicate your interest on the grant application form. You do not have to be a grant recipient or a presenter at the conference to participate in the work share program.

**3. Oral & Poster Presentation Opportunities:** As mentioned above, all travel grant and award recipients must present an oral or poster presentation at the conference. The Call for Abstracts and abstract submission form can be found at [www.usasymposium.com/space/cfa.php](http://www.usasymposium.com/space/cfa.php). Abstracts are due **7 January 2025** and submitters will be notified of their status by mid-February. Oral presentations are typically 25 minutes in length, including time for questions. Posters will be displayed in the exhibit hall and will be available to attendees Monday evening - Wednesday evening of the conference.

**4. Student Excellence Cash Awards for Oral Presentations:** Sponsored by Northrop Grumman, cash awards will be given to the top three student oral presentations. Award amounts are listed on page one. The best oral presentation award involves three steps:

- » **Step 1: Submit your abstract.** In your abstract, please illustrate the novelty of your research. The abstract must be received by **7 January 2025** and should be based on the original work you conducted at school. You must be the primary author for the abstract. The work itself could be done in collaboration with others, but you must be one of the primary contributors to the research or study. To submit an abstract, visit [www.usasymposium.com/space/cfa.php](http://www.usasymposium.com/space/cfa.php).
- » **Step 2: Submit a personal statement along with your university transcript.** This must be submitted by **7 January 2025**. The personal statement should be no more than one page and should address how the work/research was initiated, your final goal for the work/research, your role in the research, the contributions of your fellow co-authors, and why you feel your work/presentation should be considered for the award. Please send your personal statement and transcript to Kelli Jameson at [kjameson@blue52productions.com](mailto:kjameson@blue52productions.com).
- » **Step 3: The NSMMS & CRASTE Selection Committee will choose up to ten semi-finalists based on an evaluation of the abstract, personal statement, and academic transcript.** Prize Winners will be chosen based on these items, plus evaluation of the oral presentation. The selection committee will announce the winners at the conclusion of the conference in Track One. The monetary prizes will be mailed out after the conference has concluded. (Please note that any prize winners receiving \$600 or more will be required by the IRS to submit W-9s to the event producer, Blue52 Productions.)

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**5. Student Excellence Cash Awards for Poster Presentations:** Sponsored by Northrop Grumman, cash awards will be given to the top three student posters. Award amounts are listed on page one. The selection process for Best Student Poster Presentation Award involves two steps:

- » **Step 1: Submit your abstract.** In your abstract, please illustrate the novelty of your research. The abstract should be based on work/research you conducted at school and you must be one of the primary authors for the abstract. To submit an abstract, visit [www.usasymposium.com/space/cfa.php](http://www.usasymposium.com/space/cfa.php).
- » **Step 2: The selection committee will judge the student posters based on content and presentation.** Winners will be announced at the close of the conference in Track 1. The monetary prizes will be mailed out after the conference has concluded.

**6. Networking Functions:** In addition to the evening receptions that involve all attendees, student program participants will also be invited to a student lunch mixer with technical subject matter experts in the industry. More details will be sent to the student participants prior to the conference.

**7. Resume & Job Boards:** There will be an online job board that students may post their resumes/CVs to, and employers may post job openings. Onsite, there will be two job and resume boards available to all attendees. We encourage you to take advantage of this if you will be in the job market soon. Many past student program participants have received job offers through attendance at this event.

**8. Reduced Student Registration Fee:** Student participants may qualify for a reduced registration fee of \$525. To qualify for the reduced fee, you must provide proof that you are a full-time undergraduate or graduate student in good academic standing at the time of the event. Students wishing to receive the student registration rate (regardless of whether you are participating as a speaker, poster presenter, volunteer, etc.) must submit a student verification form along with their registration. To download a copy of the student verification form, visit: [www.usasymposium.com/space/student.php](http://www.usasymposium.com/space/student.php). Please note that to be eligible for the University DD2345, you must be enrolled in summer courses, conducting research over the summer, or have a verification from your advisor confirming you were enrolled in courses before the summer break and/or are scheduled to resume courses after the break. Completed student verification forms can be sent to one of the event registrars - Sherry Johnson at [sjohnson@blue52productions.com](mailto:sjohnson@blue52productions.com) or Chelsea Kubal at [ckubal@blue52productions.com](mailto:ckubal@blue52productions.com).

If you have a question about the 2025 NSMMS & CRASTE student program, please reach out to Amy Voisard at [avoisard@blue52productions.com](mailto:avoisard@blue52productions.com)

## QUICK LINKS

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](http://www.usasymposium.com/space/registration.php)

[www.usasymposium.com/space/registration.php](http://www.usasymposium.com/space/registration.php)

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT!](http://www.usasymposium.com/space/cfa.php)

[www.usasymposium.com/space/cfa.php](http://www.usasymposium.com/space/cfa.php)

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION!](http://www.usasymposium.com/space/student.php)

[www.usasymposium.com/space/student.php](http://www.usasymposium.com/space/student.php)

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD A COPY OF THE STUDENT VERIFICATION FORM!](https://www.usasymposium.com/space/docs/2025%20NSMMS-CRASTE%20Student%20Verification%20Form.pdf)

<https://www.usasymposium.com/space/docs/2025%20NSMMS-CRASTE%20Student%20Verification%20Form.pdf>

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