About USRA

Formed in 1969, under the auspices of the National Academies of Science, Universities Space Research Association is an independent nonprofit organization that offers an avenue for government and industry to engage the expertise of the academic community with USRA’s technical leadership, innovative R&D, operational excellence, management of premier facilities, and education programs to advance space and aeronautics-related sciences and exploration.

Approach & Organization

Key to USRA’s capabilities is the role of universities. In 2019, USRA scientists were involved in 857 research collaborations at 292 organizations including over 400 universities. USRA research locations employ more than 400 scientific, technical, and professional staff. More than 60% of USRA employees have advanced technical degrees, and 43% hold Ph.D.s.

Our Mission

• Advance the space- and aeronautics-related sciences and exploration through innovative research, technology, and education program

• Promote space and aeronautics policy

• Develop and operate premier facilities and programs by involving universities, governments, and the private sector for the benefit of humanity

Our Values

• Passion—for science, technology, and education

• Partnerships—with universities, governments, and the private sector

• Professionalism—through excellence, accountability, and respect for others
Core Competencies

- Astronomy and Astrophysics
- Heliophysics
- Lunar and Planetary Sciences
- Earth Science
- Microgravity Sciences
- Space Life Science

- Space Technology
- Aeronautics Research
- Computer Science and Information Technology
- Science Facility Management and Operations
- STEM Education Activities

Mountain View, CA

SOFIA
Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy

RIACS
Research Institute for Advanced Computer Science

NAMS
NASA Academic Mission Services

Cleveland, OH

GEARS
Glenn Research and Engineering Support

Los Angeles, CA

NASA Internship Program

Palmdale, CA

SOFIA
Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy

Idaho Falls, ID

CSNR
Center for Space Nuclear Research

Houston, TX

LPI
Lunar and Planetary Institute

Huntsville, AL

STI
Science and Technology Institute

Intern Programs

NASA Internship Program

USRA - Columbia, MD

EISI
Earth from Space Institute

NPP
NASA Postdoctoral Program

USRA STEM Education Center

Greenbelt, MD

USRA - Washington D.C.

GESTAR
Goddard Earth Sciences Technology and Research

U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory Scholars

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