How to Apply

Anyone 18 and over, who is interested in pursuing experience in the Earth sciences and remote sensing, is welcome to apply. This includes currently enrolled students, recent college graduates, early and transitioning career professionals, and current and former U.S. Military service members. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale at their current or last institution of higher learning and the ability to transport themselves to and from the DEVELOP location. Apply online at https://develop.larc.nasa.gov/apply.php.

Have Questions?

Please contact us with any questions about the program at NASA-DL-DEVELOP@mail.nasa.gov.

What is DEVELOP?

DEVELOP addresses environmental and public policy issues through interdisciplinary research projects that apply the lens of NASA Earth observations to community concerns around the globe. Bridging the gap between NASA Earth Science and society, DEVELOP builds capacity in both participants and partner organizations to better prepare them to address the challenges that face our society and future generations.

Teams of DEVELOP participants partner with decision makers to conduct rapid feasibility projects that highlight relevant applications of Earth observing missions, cultivate advanced skills, and increase understanding of NASA Earth science data and technology.

About Projects

DEVELOP projects apply Earth observations and remote-sensing technology to application areas that highlight NASA Earth observation capabilities relative to environmental issues for enhanced policy and decision making. These areas include:

- Health & Air Quality
- Disasters
- Water Resources
- Energy
- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Urban Development
- Ecological Forecasting
- Agriculture & Food Security
- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Urban Development
- Disasters
- Health & Air Quality
Sea ice is rapidly decreasing in the Arctic, encouraging a surge in maritime transportation and energy exploration in the region. This increase in traffic, combined with challenges unique to an Arctic environment, escalates the risk of an oil spill and adds complexity to monitoring abilities. In addition to human activity, a significant amount of oil enters the marine environment through natural oil seeps. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is the lead response agency for oil spills in U.S. coastal waters and monitors natural oil seeps in order to rule out anthropogenic sources. DEVELOP applied NASA Earth Observations – Aqua, Terra and Landsat 8 – and radar data from the European Space Agency platform, Sentinel-1, to improve datasets and methods available to the USCG to improve strategic oil spill response planning for the northern coast of Alaska. The resultant dataset was injected into the interactive Arctic Emergency Response Management Application to facilitate fast visualization and coordination for emergency responders.

“As I was transitioning out of the military, I knew that it was important for me to work alongside environmental managers and researchers engaged in the field in order to smooth my transition from the military to the scientific community.”

Amy Ferguson
Alaska Disasters Team Participant