

**DEADLINE: APRIL 15 (yearly)**

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

**THE JOAN L. DALTON MEMORIAL  
GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN ASTRONOMY**

The Joan L. Dalton Memorial Fellowship in Astronomy is an award that funds graduate study in any area of astronomy or astrophysics. It will be awarded to at most one graduating physics major from the College of Science and Mathematics (CSAM) at Montclair State University. The award will provide a stipend of up to \$25,000 per year for two years. A maximum of no more than \$50,000 will be awarded to any one student. The fellowship will be awarded on the basis of academic achievement; financial need will not be considered. In the absence of suitable candidates, the fellowship will not be awarded and funds will accrue interest for subsequent years.

Applicants must meet the following qualifications:

- Be a senior undergraduate majoring in physics at Montclair State University who is graduating in the semester of application or has graduated within one year prior to the application date.
- Have completed at least 60 semester hours at Montclair State University with at least 24 semester hours completed in the physics major at Montclair State University by graduation.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.40 or higher at the time of application.
- Have been accepted into a full-time doctoral program in a department of physics or astronomy (or closely related field) at an accredited university. If not accepted to an astronomy department, the candidate should provide a detailed statement indicating that he or she intends to pursue research or a course of study that is connected to astronomy or astrophysics (broadly interpreted).

The fellowship funds will be awarded in two stages:

- An initial stipend of up to \$25,000 will be awarded for either the first or second year of graduate study.
- The second stipend (also up to \$25,000) will be awarded in the third or any subsequent year of graduate study (and will be contingent on continued enrollment and satisfactory performance in an appropriate course of study as indicated below).

The fellowship funds cannot be applied to tuition. It is expected that the graduate institution will provide tuition support. The funds will provide a stipend to the fellow. At the discretion of the fellow's graduate program, the fellowship may be used to supplement a stipend, salary, or other award provided by the fellow's graduate program or external agency. Ideally, the award will release the fellow from teaching obligations so that he or she can focus on coursework or research.

To receive the fellowship funds, successful applicants must:

- Provide proof of full-time enrollment in a PhD program at an accredited university in the semester in which funds are to be received.
- If the program is not in an astronomy department, the recipient must provide a statement from their department chairperson or other appropriate representative certifying that the student is pursuing research that is broadly related to astronomy or astrophysics.
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3 at their graduate institution.
- Remain in good academic standing and not be subject to academic suspension, probation, or dismissal.

In addition to certification of full-time enrollment, a letter from the graduate program's chairperson certifying that the above conditions are met should be supplied to the CSAM Dean's office at least two months before the start of any semester in which funds are to be requested.

Announcement of the award will be made at the end of the spring semester. Applications or other inquiries should be sent to Marc Favata ([marc.favata@montclair.edu](mailto:marc.favata@montclair.edu)) by the deadline indicated above.

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**APPLICATION FORM**

**DEADLINE: April 15<sup>th</sup> (yearly)**

TO THE STUDENT – Please provide the information requested below in the space provided and return this form by the deadline listed above. All materials except reference letters should be sent as a single pdf file (scanned if necessary) to Marc Favata ([marc.favata@montclair.edu](mailto:marc.favata@montclair.edu)). You may attach additional sheets if necessary, but all responses should be brief.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANTICIPATED DATE OF GRADUATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. List all physics and mathematics courses taken at Montclair State University, along with the letter grades received for each course. Also include a copy of your transcript from Montclair State.
2. Attach a resume or CV indicating any publications or presentations during your college career. Include any other relevant activities.
3. List all graduate schools and departments to which you have been accepted. Include copies of your acceptance letters. (Copies of email notices of acceptance are sufficient.)

4. If you have made your decision, in which graduate program do you intend to enroll? Why did you choose that program?

5. Do you intend to pursue a line of research or course of study involving astronomy or astrophysics (broadly interpreted)? If so, briefly describe the areas that are of most interest to you.

6. Beyond your coursework, have you participated in research, internships, or other similar activities while an undergraduate? If so, briefly describe those activities.

7. If there are any special circumstances that the fellowship committee should be made aware of, please indicate them here.

8. Provide the names and email addresses of three Montclair State faculty members who can speak to your qualifications. Have at least one of these individuals submit a reference letter to support your application. Letters should be sent electronically by the faculty member to Marc Favata at the address above.