

Research Assistant Application Form for NASA M-STAR Project

About the position

Paid research assistant positions are open to Sacramento State undergraduate and graduate students. Assistants work on robotics and autonomy research, including building and integrating robot hardware, programming robots, integrating sensors, and testing autonomy algorithms.

Preferred qualifications (★ in Section 5): robotics, embedded systems, sensor integration, robot programming (Python, Linux), and strong mathematics skills. These are preferred, not required; motivated students at all levels are encouraged to apply.

How to submit

1. Fill out this form electronically (type in the blank cells and replace ☐ with ☒ for your selections).
 2. Save it as **LastName_FirstName_RA_Application.docx** (or PDF).
 3. Email it with your résumé to Dr. Rohollah Moghadam at moghadam@csus.edu.
 4. Use the subject line: **Research Assistant Application – LastName, FirstName**
- Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.*

1. Personal and contact information

First name		Last name	
Preferred name		Sac State ID	
Sac State email		Phone	

2. Academic information

Major / program		Minor (if any)	
Degree level	☐ Undergraduate ☐ Graduate		
Class standing	☐ 1st year ☐ 2nd year ☐ 3rd year ☐ 4th year + ☐ Graduate		
Cumulative GPA		Expected graduation (term/year)	

3. Availability

Term(s) available	☐ Spring 2027 ☐ Summer 2027 ☐ Fall 2027 ☐ Spring 2028 ☐ Fall 2028
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Research assistants work on campus in the robotics laboratory; schedules are arranged around your classes.

4. Skills self-assessment

Rate your experience in each area. ★ marks preferred qualifications. Rate yourself honestly; “Basic” means you have used it in a class or small project.

Skill area	None	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
Robotics ★ (kinematics, dynamics, control, mobile robots)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Embedded systems ★ (microcontrollers, Jetson / Raspberry Pi, firmware)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sensor integration ★ (IMU, LiDAR, cameras, encoders, GPS; I2C/SPI/UART)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Python programming ★	☐	☐	☐	☐
Linux ★ (command line, shell scripting, package management)	☐	☐	☐	☐

Skill area	None	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
Mathematics ★ (linear algebra, calculus, differential equations, probability)	☐	☐	☐	☐
ROS / ROS 2	☐	☐	☐	☐
C / C++	☐	☐	☐	☐
Control systems (PID, state-space, MATLAB/Simulink)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Machine learning / computer vision (PyTorch, OpenCV)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Electronics and wiring (circuits, power systems, soldering, PCB)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Git / version control	☐	☐	☐	☐
CAD / mechanical design (SolidWorks, Fusion 360, 3D printing)	☐	☐	☐	☐

6. Projects and experience

Robotics, embedded, or sensor projects (class, club, senior design, personal)	
Prior research or work experience	
Clubs and teams (e.g., Competitive Robotics Club)	
GitHub, portfolio, or project video link (optional)	

8. Statement of interest (300 words max)

Why do you want to be a research assistant in robotics? Describe a technical problem you solved (hardware, code, or math), what you learned, and what you hope to gain from this position.

9. Certification

I certify that the information in this application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that appointment as a research assistant depends on available funding and on meeting Sacramento State student employment requirements, including current enrollment.

Signature (typed name is acceptable)		Date	
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