

Advancing Research • Developing Careers & Talent • Strengthening Partnerships

A Flagship URA Member Program

Since 2007, the Universities Research Association (URA) Visiting Scholars Program (VSP) has provided graduate students, postdocs, and faculty from URA universities with direct, hands-on access to Fermilab's world-class research environment. Funded entirely by institutional assessments, VSP has supported **600+ researchers** and invested **over \$8 million** in collaborative research that advances Fermilab's mission and strengthens university-national laboratory partnerships. VSP is one of the most effective vehicles for accelerating scientific progress, promoting high-impact research outcomes, and building future careers across the HEP community at Fermilab.

Impact at Glance

- **Accelerates research progress** by leveraging Fermilab's facilities, expertise, capabilities, and experimental environments.
- **Expands institutional research capacity**, giving universities a powerful lever to support faculty, postdocs, and graduate students working at the frontiers of particle physics and advanced instrumentation.
- **Strengthens national competitiveness** by preparing early-career researchers to contribute to DOE mission-critical programs and emerging technologies.
- **Deepens university-national laboratory collaboration**, creating partnerships that lead to publications, new funding opportunities, and long-term engagement across projects, experiments, and directorates.
- **Enhances scholars' success**, offering immersive experiences that translate into career advancement, technical skill growth, and broadened research pathways.
- **Provides engagement opportunities** that most universities cannot offer independently.

What VSP Provides

- **Funding for collaborative research** through on-site visits at Fermilab, ranging from short-term travel to long-term residencies, provided in the form of reimbursement for travel-related expenses and salary support.
- **Two proposal cycles each year** (*Spring and Fall*) to accommodate research timelines.
- **Support for a wide range of disciplines** directly aligned with Fermilab's scientific mission portfolio: high-energy physics, particle physics, astrophysics, accelerator R&D, applied physics, materials science, advanced computing, AI/ML, semiconductor technology, and quantum information science and technology.
- **Competitive peer-review process** with faculty reviewers from URA institutions.

**Learn more/
Apply here:**



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