FAQ:

**How do I indicate which mentor I am interested in on the application?**
Applicants should upload a cover letter under “other attachments” which describes which project they prefer. All projects are listed on the Dragonfly website [https://dragonfly.jhuapl.edu/Student-Opportunities/] by May 28, 2021. If an applicant already submitted their application without a cover letter, they can modify their application before the deadline. For questions about how to modify your application, email Latonya Robinson [Latonya.Robinson@jhuapl.edu]

**Does this opportunity cover tuition?**
Funding does not cover tuition. The program covers 30% of the student’s time over the 2-year period (nominally equivalent to two back-to-back summer internships, distributed as appropriate over the 2-year period). Additional funds will cover travel to the team meetings (when in-person meetings resume), and travel to present research results at a relevant conference each year (if presenting at a virtual conference, funds will cover the registration fee).

**Where can I find the listing of Dragonfly SEO mentors and projects?**
Dragonfly mentors and associated projects are listed on the top right hand side of Student Opportunities page [https://dragonfly.jhuapl.edu/Student-Opportunities/]

**Are students who will complete their M.S. or Ph.D. prior to the end of the 2-year period eligible to apply? In other words, is the opportunity only for graduate students, and not postdoctoral fellows?**
We do not expect to accept any students for which there would be a substantial lag time (> 1-2 months) between the completion of their graduate degree(s) and the end of their second year as an SEO participant. This opportunity is not open to postdocs at the current time.

**Can I use my work on Dragonfly towards my MS Thesis or PhD Dissertation?**
Yes, if your Thesis/Dissertation advisor agrees.

**Does my faculty advisor need to already be involved with the Dragonfly mission?**
No. This program is intended specifically for students whose faculty advisors aren’t involved with Dragonfly. Faculty advisor do not have to be geologists or planetary scientists.

**Does my faculty advisor need to have a background in planetary science or geology?**
No.

**Would it be possible to continue participating on Dragonfly after the 2-year period of participating in the SEO program ends?**
Potentially, depending on the nature of the work being performed and how it fits with the project schedule.

**What is the duration of the program at APL during the summer months?**
The breakdown of time between the summer and academic year can be worked out with the Dragonfly mentor.

**Are students eligible to receive academic credit for participating in this program?**
It is completely up to the student’s home institution to arrange this. Students should arrange this with their faculty advisor and their home institution.

**Will the work be done remotely or in-person?**
Due to COVID19-related concerns, the projects will begin virtually and transition to on-site as needed over the two-year period of performance. Team meetings held in 2021 are likely to be virtual, but the venue during 2022 remains to be determined.

**When will I be notified of my selection?**
We anticipate that successful candidates will be notified by September 10, 2021.

**What must be included in the faculty advisor's 2-3 sentence statement of support?**
The statement of support will be a 2-3 sentence statement in which the faculty advisor states that: (a) their advisee has their approval to apply to the Dragonfly Student and Early Career Investigator Program (b) they (i.e., the faculty advisor) is willing to attend the Student and Early Career Investigator Program Kickoff Meeting with their student if the student is selected. This is a short orientation meeting that will be held in Fall 2021 and that can be attended virtually (c) if selected, they will ensure that their student has the necessary support at their home institution to work on their project and communicate with the Dragonfly team during the year. Here, we define institutional support as the ability to provide the selected student with a designated workspace, internet access, facilities, etc.

**I am currently enrolled in a combined B.S/M.S. program in which I will complete my M.S. in one year at the end of my fifth year of study. Am I eligible to apply to this program?**
At this time, only students that would be enrolled full-time in an M.S. or Ph.D. program for their full tenure as Dragonfly Student Investigators are eligible to apply. In this case, an accelerated M.S. student would be eligible to apply to this program after completion of their fourth year of study when they are officially designated as a graduate student, but only if extending their M.S. studies for an additional year would be possible. Students planning to enroll into a Ph.D. program or another M.S. program the semester after completing their accelerated M.S. would also be eligible to apply.