



## **W. M. Keck Institute for Space Studies KISS Affiliates Program – 2026 Solicitation**

Solicitation Release Date: 01 October 2025  
Nomination Due Date: 31 October 2025

The Keck Institute for Space Studies (KISS) is soliciting nominations for KISS Affiliates who will be welcomed into the cohort in January 2026.

Nominated by the Caltech faculty, KISS Affiliates are an ongoing cohort of Campus graduate students and postdocs who are seen as the next generation of space exploration leaders. Many KISS Affiliates share that their interactions with the Institute (and the people they meet through the Institute) comprise some of their best experiences at Caltech. KISS provides them with unique experiences with industry CEOs, astronauts, space mission leaders, NASA leadership and world-renowned space exploration researchers.

Organized by KISS, this group meets monthly, and a meal (sponsored by KISS) is normally associated with each event.

We intend to select approximately one graduate student and one postdoctoral scholar from each of the EAS, GPS and PMA divisions, adding a total of around 6 new KISS Affiliates to the ongoing program. We will, however, also consider outstanding candidates from other divisions if a space-related candidate has been identified and nominated. We encourage nominations from those that will remain at Caltech for at least one academic year following selection.

A nomination by Caltech faculty (not necessarily advisor, although support is encouraged) is due via [this form](#) by 31 October 2025. Successful nominees will be notified by end of the fall term.

### **Nomination Details:**

- Name of Candidate
- Position: (Graduate Student or Postdoctoral Scholar)
- Name of Nominator:
- Name of Advisor (if different):
- Division: (EAS, GPS, PMA or from other divisions for space-related candidates)
- Why should this candidate be considered for the cohort (describe the passion of the candidate for space exploration)?
- In what ways does the candidate contribute to the overall diversity of the cohort?
- Possible or Desired Connection to JPL (if any)?

If you would like to submit your nomination via email, please send the above information to Antonio Soriano at [asoriano@caltech.edu](mailto:asoriano@caltech.edu) by 31 October 2025.