The 2016 Victorian Space Science Education Centre, (VSSEC) and the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) Australian Space Prize is open for submissions.

The VSSEC - NASA Australian Space Prize offers an Australian university student the opportunity to attend the NASA internship program at NASA Ames Research Center, and work with a lead scientist or engineer on a current NASA project. The NASA internship is an intensive select entry program that provides recent graduates with access to advanced science and engineering R&D, and an awareness of the complex managerial, political, financial, social, and human issues faced by current and future aerospace programs.

**The prize includes**
- Participation in a ten week internship program
- Working directly with scientists and engineers on a NASA project related to the thesis
- The potential for creating a network for future collaboration

**The winner of this prize will receive**
- the internship program
- flights and local transport
- meals and accommodation

**Competition categories are:**

**Engineering**
Structural design, orbital dynamics, materials, power systems, rocketry, robotics.

**Geology and planetary geology**
Geology and planetary science, astrobiology, etc.

**Biology and human physiology**
Human physiology, astrobiology, microbiology, etc.

**Space physics and biophysics**
Space physics, astronomy, astrophysics, theoretical physics, mathematical modelling, space weather, atmospheric science, etc.

**Data processing and electronics**
Data processing systems, data management, electronics, control systems, instrument and sensor design application using space-derived data.

**Category winners** will be awarded $1000 prize money and receive a certificate.

All applications and accompanying documentation must uploaded using the online submission site (this site will open Monday 17th October close midnight Friday 9th Dec). All documentation must be in PDF format. No late submissions will be accepted.

The thesis must have space science or engineering relevance.

If the thesis has a space application that is not explored in the thesis, an accompanying paper (no longer than six pages in length) detailing the space application must be submitted with the application.

If the thesis is the result of a group project the contribution of the applicant must be detailed therein, or a separate paper (no longer than six pages in length) may be submitted, clearly defining the contribution of the applicant.