

**Opportunity Title:** Solar System Exploration: Solar Wind Interaction with Weakly Magnetized Bodies

**Opportunity Reference Code:** 0071-NPP-MAR26-GSFC-PlanetSci

**Organization** National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

**Reference Code** 0071-NPP-MAR26-GSFC-PlanetSci

**How to Apply** All applications must be submitted in [Zintellect](#)

Please visit the NASA Postdoctoral Program website for application instructions and requirements: [How to Apply | NASA Postdoctoral Program \(ouau.org\)](#).

A complete application to the NASA Postdoctoral Program includes:

1. Research proposal
2. Three letters of recommendation
3. Official doctoral transcript documents

**Application Deadline** 3/1/2026 6:00:59 PM Eastern Time Zone

**Description** About the [NASA Postdoctoral Program](#)

The [NASA Postdoctoral Program \(NPP\)](#) offers unique research opportunities to highly-talented scientists to engage in ongoing NASA research projects at a NASA Center, NASA Headquarters, or at a NASA-affiliated research institute. These one- to three-year fellowships are competitive and are designed to advance NASA's missions in space science, Earth science, aeronautics, space operations, exploration systems, and astrobiology.

**Description:**

The solar wind interacts with weakly or nonmagnetized bodies in a variety of manners: (1) flow diversion resulting from mass loading caused by charge exchange and photo-ionization of their upper atmospheres, (2) direct interactions with ionospheric plasma, and (3) crustal absorption where both an intrinsic magnetic field and a neutral atmosphere are lacking. These processes give rise to such phenomena as bow and limb shocks, pickup ion acceleration, the growth of various wave modes in the mass loaded solar wind, cometary ray structures, ionosheath plasma depletion layers, drift mirror waves, ionopause current layers, ionospheric fluxropes, nightside ionospheric holes, cometary type-I ion tails, induced magnetic tails, and plasma wake effects. Extensive data sets relevant to these phenomena from previous missions such as Pioneer Venus, International Cometary Explorer, Giotto, and Phobos-2 are available at LEP, two new data sets from Mars Global Surveyor and Lunar Prospector. Research opportunities exist for a range of data analysis and theoretical modeling topics related to all of these missions.

**Location:**

Goddard Space Flight Center



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**Opportunity Reference Code:** 0071-NPP-MAR26-GSFC-PlanetSci

Greenbelt, Maryland

**Field of Science:** Planetary Science

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**Applications with citizens from Designated Countries will not be accepted at this time, unless they are Legal Permanent Residents of the United States.** A complete list of Designated Countries can be found at: <https://www.nasa.gov/oiiir/export-control>.

Eligibility is currently open to:

- U.S. Citizens;
- U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR);
- Foreign Nationals eligible for an Exchange Visitor J-1 visa status; and,
- Applicants for LPR, asylees, or refugees in the U.S. at the time of application with 1) a valid EAD card and 2) I-485 or I-589 forms in pending status

**Questions about this opportunity?** Please email [npp@orau.org](mailto:npp@orau.org)

**Point of Contact** [Mikeala](#)

**Eligibility Requirements** • **Degree:** Doctoral Degree.