zintellect
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Opportunity Title: The nature of the lunar crustal dichotomy and its effects in early lunar volcanism
Opportunity Reference Code: 0291-NPP-MAR26-JPL-PlanetSci

Organization National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Reference Code 0291-NPP-MAR26-JPL-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 (orau.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 4/2/2026 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 candidate is expected to pursue an independent research program on the subject of lunar petrology. The main focus of interest would be to combine petrological and remote sensing information with geodynamical modeling in order to provide an explanation of the lunar crustal dichotomy. The proposed work would incorporate all observations of the lunar crustal dichotomy, including the variations of crustal thickness and chemical differences, as well as the differences in volcanic output on each side of the Moon. A model that manages to explain these disparate observations is key to unraveling early lunar processes such as the cumulate overturn or the magma ocean, and will help understand the genesis of mare volcanism. The project would ideally involve the creation of programs to work with petrological data and to combine them with various modeling techniques.

Field of Science:

- Planetary Science

Advisors:

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(626) 429-6013

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Applications from 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/oiir/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

Qualifications The ideal applicant would have a PhD (or pending) in a topic in lunar petrology. The applicant should be well versed in thermodynamic phase equilibria models, and demonstrate proficiency with coding. The ideal applicant will have excellent writing a speaking skills and be capable of independent work.

Point of Contact Mikeala

Eligibility Requirements

- **Degree:** Doctoral Degree.