Opportunity Title: Planetary Mapping and Robotic Exploration of Mars
Opportunity Reference Code: 0041-NPP-MAR26-JPL-PlanetSci

Organization National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Reference Code 0041-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:

An opportunity exists for research in one of two general areas: 1) Planetary mapping and tectonic evolution of Mars. The tectonic history of a planet is recorded in the distribution and relative age of extensional and compressional features on its surface. We have compiled a paleotectonic map of Mars to determine centers of tectonic activity. Research in this area can be regionally focused with the existing data, or could extend the technique with further comprehensive mapping.
References: Anderson, R. C. et al., Tectonic Histories between Alba Patera and Syria Planum, Mars, Icarus, 171, 31-38, 2004. Anderson, R.C. et al., Significant Centers of Tectonic Activity thourgh Time for the Western Hemisphere of Mars, JGR, 106(E6), 12301-12314, 2001.

2) Planetary robotic geology and the search for habitable environments and water on planetary surfaces. We develop new instrument techniques for planetary exploration, and in particular for in-situ measurements of hydration, geochemical, and petrologic indicators. This research is both science-driven and technology focused.

References: Paul B. Willis, et al., Miniaturized In-Situ Petrograph for Mineralogical Analysis, 2004 IEEE Aerospace Conference Proceedings, 8-pages. Buehler, M. G., et al., Prospecting for In-Situ Resources on the Moon and Mars Using Wheel-Based Sensors, 2004 IEEE Aerospace

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Conference Proceedings, #5123, 10-pages.

Location:
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Pasadena, California

Field of Science: Planetary Science

Advisors:
Robert Anderson
Robert.C.Anderson@jpl.nasa.gov
818 393-1253

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/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

Point of Contact Mikeala

Eligibility Requirements

- **Degree:** Doctoral Degree.