Opportunity Title: Solar System Exploration: Exogenous Organics for the Origin and Early Evolution of Life
Opportunity Reference Code: 0158-NPP-MAR26-GSFC-Astrobio

Organization National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Reference Code 0158-NPP-MAR26-GSFC-Astrobio

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 origin of life on Earth (and possibly elsewhere) was either influenced by or a product of organic compounds from space. These vital compounds were delivered by comets, meteorites, and IDPs to the early Earth. Such material is delivered today. Our goal is to analyze the organics in such samples at unprecedented sensitivities. Our focus is on small organic molecules, such as amino acids, hydroxy acids, amines, purines, pyrimidines, pyridines, etc. We typically use different forms of chromatography coupled with various types of mass spectrometry to understand the structural, enantiomeric, and stable isotopic distribution of these species across a range of extraterrestrial materials—principally meteorites. We furthermore closely collaborate with field work and other laboratories to perform experiments to explore the origin of these compounds under plausible astrophysical conditions. Principally we study aqueous alteration, energetically processed ices, gas-grain reactions, and terrestrial analogs of Mars.

Location:
Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt, Maryland

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Field of Science: Astrobiology

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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/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.