Opportunity Title: Space Science: Mars Exploration
Opportunity Reference Code: 0009-NPP-MAR26-ARC-PlanetSci

Organization National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Reference Code 0009-NPP-MAR26-ARC-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 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:

Multidisciplinary studies are requested to contribute to on-going and future Mars exploration opportunities. Several lines of investigation are prioritized, which include (1) development of strategies, methods and tools to search for evidence of life, present or past; (2) development and testing of instrument capabilities for the scientific exploration of Mars and for extreme environments on Earth; (3) use of terrestrial analog environments, simulation facilities and numerical models to advance fundamental understanding of the Martian atmosphere, surface and subsurface; (4) analysis of mission data; (5) research and policy development on planetary protection (prevention of harmful cross-contamination between Earth and Mars); (6) research on the geological history of Mars and identification of landing sites optimized for science and human exploration; and (7) establishment of an easily accessible, electronic information base for Mars exploration. This opportunity is tightly coupled to related opportunities entitled ""Theoretical and Experimental Studies of Planetary Atmospheres""; ""Mars Surface Composition and Aqueous Processes""; ""Mars Fluvial Studies and Exploration""; ""Drill and Sample Handling Technology for Mars Research""; and Theoretical and Experimental Studies of the Martian Environment, Impact Assessment for Future Mars Missions"".

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Location:
Ames Research Center
Moffet Field, California

Field of Science: Planetary Science

Advisors:

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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.