

Opportunity Title: Astrophysics: Instrumentation for High-Contrast Imaging

Opportunity Reference Code: 0040-NPP-NOV26-GSFC-Astrophys

Organization National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Reference Code 0040-NPP-NOV26-GSFC-Astrophys

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 11/1/2026 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 Habitable Worlds Observatory (HWO) will seek to directly image and characterize Earth-like exoplanets orbiting nearby Sun-like stars, which requires optical instrumentation capable of suppressing starlight by up to ten orders of magnitude at visible wavelengths. We are developing a range of direct imaging technologies relevant to HWO, including coronagraphs, deformable mirrors, integral field spectroscopy, photon-counting detectors, wavefront sensing & control, and image post-processing algorithms. We have created the Exoplanet Spectroscopy Technologies (ExoSpec) in-air testbed to carry out system-level demonstrations using these technologies.

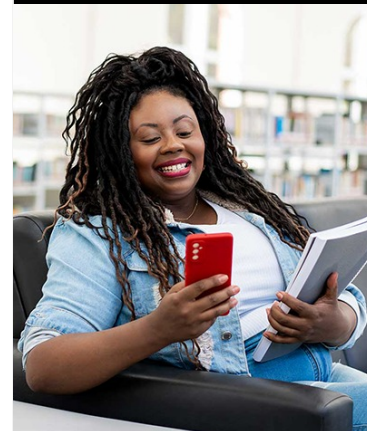
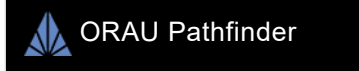
Location:

Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt, Maryland

Field of Science: Astrophysics

Advisors:

Mike McElwain
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301-286-6094



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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/oirr/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.