Opportunity Title: Experimental Investigations in Astrobiology
Opportunity Reference Code: 0349-NPP-NOV26-GSFC-Astrobio

Organization National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Reference Code 0349-NPP-NOV26-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 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 relatively recent subject of Astrobiology - the study of the origin and prevalence of life in the universe - only formally launched in the late 1990s, is an exciting and rapidly growing field that offers many opportunities for new research and highly impactful science. Existing at the intersection of older and larger fields - geology, astronomy, biology and chemistry - astrobiology is a vibrant, multidisciplinary subject area that attracts researchers from many different academic backgrounds, and allows practitioners to also learn and engage in scientific practices ranging from lab work to field work, and from data science to modeling. This opportunity solicits highly motivated postdoctoral candidates (including final year PhDs) to propose novel and exciting research topics in collaboration with an established NASA scientist. Areas of particular interest include the astrobiology of Mars, the Ocean Worlds (Europa, Enceladus, Titan etc), exoplanets - and of course, the early Earth. Methods of investigation that can be proposed should have an emphasis on field and/or laboratory science, but supportive modeling and data analysis can also be included. The project should clearly enunciate a well-defined set of one or more science related science goals and questions that can be answered in a 2 year project.

Field of Science: Astrobiology

Advisors:

Conor Nixon
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(301) 286-1234

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

Qualifications The candidate must have, or will soon obtain, a doctoral degree in geochemistry, geobiology, astrobiology, biochemistry, astrochemistry or a related discipline that is a solid academic preparation for the proposed investigation. Typical skills may include laboratory experimentation and field sample collection, as well as data analysis and modeling. The candidate should be highly motivated to pursue a career in science, have excellent written and oral communication skills, and be accomplished at both independent work and problem solving, as well as working in a team environment. NASA is a highly integrated team and academic collective environment so that soft skills (team working, communication, resourcefulness, resilience) are equally important to strong academic skills for success.

Point of Contact Mikeala

Eligibility Requirements

- **Degree:** Doctoral Degree.