1. Job description and criteria for the Fellow

The Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS), part of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) is one of the leading space science centres. In collaboration with universities, it conducts a full range of space science activities, including topics such as the structure and origin of the universe; formation of the earth and solar system; utilization of the space environment for microgravity experiments; and space engineering to enable these activities by developing future technologies.

As part of its on-going commitment to remain at the forefront of space science, ISAS/JAXA has established a prestigious new fellowship program, the JAXA International Top Young Fellowship. This is designed to attract outstanding, highly motivated, young researchers in any of the space science fields covered by ISAS/JAXA to work in Japan for 3 (extendable to 5) years. The excellent remuneration package (see below) includes generous travel support so that the Fellow can extend their international profile, as well as developing collaborations within Japan.

2. Duration of the Fellowship and the commencement of the research activity

(1) The duration of the fellowship
   The duration of the fellowship is basically for three years. The contract shall be renewed every financial year. However, as necessary, the duration can be extended up-to five(5) years through a review of scientific activity by the JAXA International Top Young Fellow Committee.

(2) Commencement of the research activity
   As early as possible from the appointment of the fellowship

3. Terms of the Fellowship

(1) Salary: The monthly salary is 780,000 Japanese Yen (equivalent to an annual salary of $93,600 US dollars at a typical exchange rate of 100 JPY /dollar). Tax is included.

(2) 2,500,000 JPY (25,000 USD) of the research fund, which includes the support for travel and research expenses

(3) Place of appointment: The Sagamihara Campus (ISAS)
4. Eligibility

Applicant must have a PhD (or equivalent doctoral level degree) and postdoctoral experience for maximum of 8 years

5. Documents to be submitted:

A set of the following documents is to be submitted via e-mail for the application.

1. Applicant’s curriculum vitae
2. Outline of applicant’s researches previously accomplished, and future research plan
3. List of research achievements, including published papers and other publications, etc.
4. Applicant’s three(3) major research papers
5. Three(3) letters of reference

6. Number of positions:

A few

7. Application deadline:

July 15, 2009
All applications must be received by the closing date.

8. Address to send applications:

Application documents should be sent electronically to young_fellowship@jaxa.jp (PDF format preferred) or mailed to

Chair of the JAXA International Top Young Fellow Committee
Personnel, Research Promotion Office,
Institute of Space and Astronautical Science
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
3-1-1 Yoshinodai, Sagamihara-shi, Kanagawa 229-8510, Japan

If application documents are sent by registered mail or international courier service, please state “Application documents for JAXA International Top Young Fellowship” in red ink on the front of the envelope. Please note that applications will not be returned.

9. Selection of Fellowships

Fellowship are awarded by following selection. Personnel affairs section will receive all application materials and document. These will be reviewed by the JAXA International Young Top Fellow Committee. A few selected candidates are invited to be interviewed in Japan.

10. Contact for inquiries:

Personnel, Research Promotion Office
Institute of Space and Astronautical Science
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
E-mail: young_fellowship@jaxa.jp

11. Miscellaneous:

All documents should be in English language.

12. Purpose of use of personal information

The personal information provided to JAXA will be used and handled only for the purpose of selecting the JAXA International Top Young Fellow. JAXA will discard all personal information except for those selected after the selection.