

Application Guideline for academic staff Position
at the Institute of Space and Astronautical Science, JAXA

1.	Position	Assistant Professor
2.	Number of Openings	One
3.	Affiliation	Department of Interdisciplinary Space Science, Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS)
4.	Work Location	JAXA Sagami-hara Campus (3-1-1 Yoshinodai, Chuo-ku, Sagami-hara, Kanagawa, JAPAN) <Scope of changes> The work location may be changed to a location designated by the Agency due to personnel transfers, organizational restructuring, or other reasons. When telework is conducted in accordance with the Agency's rules, the telework location shall apply.
5.	Expected Start Date	April 1 st , 2027 or the earliest possible date thereafter
6.	Term of Employment	Non fixed term
7.	Probationary Period	6 months from the date of hire
8.	Job Duties	Research duties related to scientific balloon experiments and other activities of the Department of Interdisciplinary Space Science
9.	Detailed Job Duties and Desired Applicant Profile	At the Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS), JAXA, scientific balloon experiments are positioned as an important platform within the inter-university research system for advanced space science. They provide flight opportunities to researchers throughout Japan and serve as a gateway to space by enabling the demonstration of exploratory research, the development of human resources, and the bridging of early-stage concepts to future missions. JAXA's scientific balloon activities are supported by unique balloon technologies, including the capability to reach the upper stratosphere, precise flight operation techniques, and post-flight recovery at sea. At the same time, domestic flight operations, which are conducted within particularly limited flight areas, tend to be constrained by weather conditions and other factors. Under these circumstances, the Department of Interdisciplinary Space Science is expected to contribute to the development of new science and engineering research using scientific balloon experiments, as well as to the advancement and future development of the scientific balloon program. In future scientific balloon experiments, it will be important to promote, in parallel, short-term efforts to make maximum use of limited domestic flight opportunities through steady and robust experimental design, and mid- to long-term efforts to conceive the advancement of scientific balloon experiment systems—including observational instruments, experimental design, and operational technologies—with implementation feasibility in mind and with future international development also in view. These efforts should be pursued through the stepwise integration of existing technologies, including technologies in which JAXA has strengths, with advanced technologies. Therefore, we seek a candidate who will participate in the scientific balloon program as part of the inter-university research system, and who will proactively advance new academic developments and research and development based on their own expertise. The successful candidate is expected not merely to use scientific balloons as flight opportunities, but to take an integrated view of experimental concepts, observation and demonstration methods, ground systems, onboard instruments, operational feasibility, and the utilization of acquired data,

		thereby mutually advancing their research themes and the experimental systems. Furthermore, we seek a highly motivated candidate who understands the role of ISAS in the inter-university research system, can conduct academic research centered on space science projects in cooperation with researchers at universities and other institutions, actively participates in various research and development activities and projects within JAXA by making use of their specialized research capabilities, and contributes to human resource development for future space development and utilization. Based on the above, ISAS invites applications for an Assistant Professor who will connect their own expertise to scientific balloon experiments and will contribute to the advancement of the domestic scientific balloon experiment platform and the creation of internationally deployable scientific observation and engineering demonstration themes. The duties and responsibilities of the Assistant Professor position in this recruitment are as follows: • Promote research and development on experimental system design and related technologies that contribute to the advancement of scientific balloon experiments. • Conduct academic research as a user of scientific balloon experiments, and proactively contribute to the development of the scientific balloon program through collaboration with researchers in science and engineering inside and outside ISAS, as well as with universities, companies, and other organizations. • Participate, in cooperation with existing academic and administrative/technical staff, in activities related to scientific balloon experiments as part of the inter-university research system, including operations, safety, recovery, and support for joint use. • Contribution to the education of graduate students. • Participation in research and development activities and projects within JAXA In view of these duties, the Assistant Professor to be recruited in this recruitment must meet at least the following requirements. • Have research achievements recognized nationally and/or internationally in space science, space engineering, or related interdisciplinary research fields. • Have the ability and motivation to engage in research and development using small flight vehicles, high-altitude platforms, and related systems, including scientific balloon experiments, or to pioneer new academic fields that can be connected to such activities. • Understand the constraints and characteristics of domestic scientific balloon experiments, and have the experimental design capability to maximize outcomes from limited flight opportunities. • Have an interest in creating internationally deployable scientific balloon experiments, and the motivation to proactively engage in the advancement of experimental systems and related technologies toward that goal.
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10.	Goal Setting	The assistant professor is expected to become an indispensable researcher in the broader field of space science by making significant contributions to advancing a wide range of projects beyond their own area of expertise. Based on these expectations, applicants are required to state their research goals in the document "(5) Future Research Plan". After approximately five years of employment, the Research Director of Interdisciplinary Space Science will review the overall achievements and discuss their subsequent career path.
11.	Benefits and Conditions	(1) Salary Salary will be determined under the provision of JAXA wage rules and regulations, considering qualifications and experience. (2) Working Hours In principle, the Discretionary Labor System for Professional Work shall be applied. Working hours are basically from 9:30-17:45. The break time shall be 45minutes if the working hours per day exceed 6 hours, and 1 hour if the working hours exceed 8 hours. Regardless of the above, those who apply the Discretionary Labor System for Professional Work shall have deemed working hours of 7 hours and 45 minutes per day. Overtime work may be required depending on the work situation. (3) Holidays Saturdays and Sundays, National Holidays, New Year Holidays (December 29th - January 3rd), others when JAXA deems it necessary, etc. (4) Vacations and Leave Paid Annual leave, WLB (Work Life Balance) annual leave, celebration or condolence leave, maternity leave, child-care leave, care leave, nursing leave, etc. (5) Retirement Age Retirement age is 65. (6) Accommodations Depending on business necessity, individual situation, and vacancy status, either single or family accommodation will be provided, or a housing allowance will be issued according to the agency's regulations. However, the period of availability for the same housing is limited to 7 years.. (7) Social insurance Several types of social insurances (health insurance, pension plan, etc.) will be provided.
12.	Research Funding	Research funding is determined according to the budget situation of each year. *FY2025: Professor; ¥800,000, Associate professor; ¥800,000, Assistant professor; ¥400,000
13.	Required Qualifications	PhD degree

14.	Application Documents	(1) Curriculum vitae (2) Research history and summary (3) List of published papers (with DOIs) (4) List of awarded research funds through competition. Specify a type of funds, amount, and a role (e.g. principal investigator/co-investigator) (5) Future research plan (including contribution to projects and ambitions for educational activities) (6) Declaration of past criminal convictions, administrative penalties, disciplinary measures, and other relevant actions, including sexual harassment, assault and violence: No specific format is required. This information may also be included in section (1) CV. Indicate whether applicable; if so, provide details. (7) Names, affiliations and contact details (phone numbers and email addresses) of two individuals who can provide references for the applicant. (8) Copies of major research papers (up to 5) published in peer-reviewed or refereed academic journals
15.	Submission	Applicants are required to apply via the following website. Please access the application form at the following URL: https://isas-appli-form.jaxa.jp/forms1/1783052000 (Notes) • All the documents must be submitted in pdf format. • Note that documents (2) to (6) should be merged into one PDF file. • Application submitted in person or by mail shall not be accepted.
16.	Application Deadline	September, 30th, 2026, noon (JST) • Data entry and submission of all the required documents must be completed by this deadline through the website.
17.	Screening Method	Screening will be conducted by the Advisory Council for Research and Management of ISAS, JAXA. The council will conduct a document screening, and interview those who have passed the document screening. This process is subject to change.
18.	Contact Information	Director of Department of Interdisciplinary Space Science Prof. Yuko INATOMI Email: inatomi.yuko[at]jaxa.jp For inquiries regarding application submission as in Section 15: Human Resources Section / Management and Integration Department E-mail: ISAS-JINJI [at]ml.jaxa.jp * *Please replace [at] in the email address with @.
19.	Name of Recruiter	Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
20.	Others	(1) Information submitted in your application documents will not be used for any purpose other than the employment selection. Once the selection process is complete, we will securely dispose of all application documents and personal information, except for those submitted by the successful candidate. (2) In order to properly implement security export control in accordance with Japan's Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, it is necessary to submit a declaration pertaining to "Specific category" regulated by the act. Depending on the information provided in the declaration, measures such as adjustments to the permissible scope of outside employment may be taken as necessary to ensure the proper performance of duties.. (3) Please also check the notes on JAXA website* before applying. * https://global.jaxa.jp/about/employ/index.html

