



Planetary Science Summer School
Accepting Applications Through
March 23, 2026

Science Mission Design Schools

Preparing the next generation of NASA mission scientists and engineers since 1989



Astrophysics Mission Design School
(alternate years with Heliophysics)
Deadline October
Session runs January-April



Heliophysics Mission Design School
(alternate years with Astrophysics)
Deadline October
Session runs January-April



Planetary Science Summer School
(annual)
Deadline March 23, 2026
Sessions run May-August

NASA Science Mission Design Schools are run by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, supported by JPL's Innovation Foundry and its legendary Team X. JPL is a federally-funded research and development center managed for NASA by Caltech.



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National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
4800 Oak Grove Drive
Pasadena, CA 91109
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NASA Science Mission Design Schools are 3-month-long career development experiences for doctoral candidates, recent Ph.D.s, Postdocs, and junior faculty with a strong interest in science-driven robotic space exploration missions. Learn the process of developing a hypothesis-driven, robotic space mission in a concurrent engineering environment and get an in-depth, first-hand look at mission design, life cycle, costs, schedule and the trade-offs inherent in each. Work directly with Team X during the final, culminating design week at JPL and present the concept to a NASA review panel.



"Planetary Science Summer School (PSSS) spurred my passion for working on planetary missions at that creative, exciting interface between science and engineering."
– Jennifer Scully, PSSS Mentor/Ocean Worlds & Small Bodies Scientist, JPL



"PSSS opened my eyes to considerations and compromises needed to balance mission science, engineering, and cost."
– Emma Marcucci, Executive Director, Smithsonian STARS



"Through PSSS, I built a network while learning to successfully work on mission proposals at JPL."
– Farah Alibay, Mars 2020 Systems Engineer, JPL