**Apply now to become an ESA astronaut**

31 March 2021

Applications are now open for the ESA’s 2021 astronaut selection and qualified candidates of all genders are encouraged to apply.

As well as recruiting new members to our astronaut corps, ESA has also issued a vacancy notice for the ‘Parastronaut’ feasibility study to select astronauts living with specific physical disabilities.

This project is a global first to begin removing barriers for people living with physical disabilities to carry out a professional space mission.

"Representing all parts of our society is a concern that we take very seriously,” says David Parker, ESA Director of Human and Robotic Exploration. “Diversity at ESA should not only address the origin, age, background or gender of our astronauts, but also perhaps physical disabilities. To make this dream a reality, alongside the astronaut recruitment, I am launching the Parastronaut Feasibility Project – an innovation whose time has come."

Both vacancies run from 31 March to 28 May 2021 and all applications must be submitted via the [ESA Careers website](https://jobs.esa.int/) within these eight weeks. Following this deadline, a six-stage selection process will start. Successful candidates are expected to be appointed in October 2022.

Further information on the vacancies as well as the ESA astronaut selection process and astronaut training is available online at [esa.int/yourwaytospace](https://www.esa.int/About_Us/Careers_at_ESA/ESA_Astronaut_Selection)

Upcoming events are posted on the [launch calendar](https://www.esa.int/Newsroom/Launch_schedule_2019_2020) and [events calendar](https://www.esa.int/Newsroom/Newsroom_Calendar) at [www.esa.int/newsroom](https://www.esa.int/newsroom).

 **Contact**

If you have further questions or interview requests, please contact media@esa.int.

Further information

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply via the ESA Careers website until 28 May 2021: <https://jobs.esa.int/>

**Media kit**<https://esamultimedia.esa.int/docs/careers/MediaKitAstronautSelection.pdf>

**Website**[https://www.esa.int/YourWayToSpace](https://www.esa.int/yourwaytospace)

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About the European Space Agency

The European Space Agency (ESA) provides Europe’s gateway to space.

ESA is an intergovernmental organisation, created in 1975, with the mission to shape the development of Europe’s space capability and ensure that investment in space delivers benefits to the citizens of Europe and the world.

ESA has 22 Member States: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Slovenia and Latvia are Associate Members.

ESA has established formal cooperation with six Member States of the EU. Canada takes part in some ESA programmes under a Cooperation Agreement.

By coordinating the financial and intellectual resources of its members, ESA can undertake programmes and activities far beyond the scope of any single European country. It is working in particular with the EU on implementing the Galileo and Copernicus programmes as well as with Eumetsat for the development of meteorological missions.

Learn more about ESA at [www.esa.int](https://www.esa.int/)

For further information:

ESA Newsroom and Media Relations Office – Ninja Menning

Email: media@esa.int

Tel: +31 71 565 6409