

## JAXA lowered a bar to become astronauts

1 Last November, JAXA announced that they no longer require astronauts to have educational backgrounds and work experience in scientific-related fields. The change was made because they hope to employ more diverse crews with a wide range of experience for the future lunar exploration missions.

2 It is the first time for a space agency in the world to scrap the academic requirement for astronauts. When JAXA last hired astronauts in 2008, applicants had to have graduated from a four-year university course in the natural sciences or engineering. However, this time, it has become possible for people who have only graduated from high school to make an application. The requirement of being able to swim 75 meters was also removed, as this can be accomplished with training.

3 Here are the qualifications for applying:

(1) Applicants are required to have three years or more of work experience.

(2) They must also be between 149.5 and 190.5 cm tall. The height requirement has been lowered from the previous minimum of 158 cm due to spaceship improvements, making it easier for more women to apply.

(3) They must have corrected eyesight of at least 1.0 for both eyes and have normal color vision and hearing.

(4) Applicants must have skills of sharing their experience and achievements with other people.

4 The average age of the current six Japanese astronauts is 52, and they are all men. So JAXA said they would actively recruit women. During the last application process in 2008, women accounted for just 13% of the 963 applicants, so the agency would raise that ratio to around 30%. JAXA had considered creating a female quota but decided not to, as they expected the final number of recruits would be small.

lower the bar 基準を下げる      require 要求する/requirement 資格・必要条件      educational background 学歴  
 ~-related: ~に関する    field 分野    employ/hire 雇う    diverse 多様な    a wide range of ~:幅広い~    lunar  
 月の    exploration 探検    agency 機関    scrap 廃止する    academic 学問の    applicant 志願者    engineering  
 工学    make an application/apply 申込みをする    accomplish 達成する    height 身長    previous 前回の  
 minimum 最小限    improvement 改善    corrected eyesight 矯正視力    vision 視覚    current 現在の    recruit  
 募集する    account for~::~~を占める    ratio 割合・比率    quota 枠・定数 ( )  
 ※JAXA=Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency(宇宙航空研究開発機構)

Q1 昨年11月、JAXAは新規募集の宇宙飛行士の応募資格から、どの条件を外しましたか。1段落から探して答えましょう。

Q2 なぜ、そのような変更を行ったのですか。

Q3 前回(2008年)は、宇宙飛行士の選抜試験を受けたい人は、どのような条件を満たしている必要がありましたか。

Q4 「75メートル泳げる」の資格が外されたのは、なぜですか？

Q5 今回の宇宙飛行士・選抜試験の応募者に必要な「経験」について説明しましょう。※Qualification(1)

Q6 最低身長が158cmから149.5cmになったのは、なぜですか。

Q7 新しく追加された条件(4)は、どのようなスキルですか。詳しく説明しましょう。

Q8 What is the average age of the current Japanese astronauts?

Q9 Why is JAXA willing to recruit women?

Q10 Why didn't JAXA create a female quota?

# Over 4,000 applied to JAXA to be astronauts

1 JAXA accepted applications of new astronauts from December 20th, 2021 to April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Eventually, they received a record 4,127 applications. On April 5<sup>th</sup>, JAXA said that the number of applicants rocketed up by 4.3 times from the last time of 963.

2 The number of female applicants hit a record 919, making up 22.3% of the total. That rose from 12.9% in 2008, but fell still short of the agency's target of 30%.

3 In May, 2,266 applicants who passed the document screening took the test of English and general liberal arts, and 205 applicants passed it. There are three rounds of exams after this. The first exam measuring their physical abilities and presentation skills was conducted from July 18<sup>th</sup> to August 9<sup>th</sup>. JAXA announced on September 30<sup>th</sup> that ①50 applicants passed the exam. They are 44 males and 6 females. They will go through two more rounds of exams.

4 JAXA will choose only a few prospective astronauts from the candidates by the end of March 2023. The agency said it plans to recruit astronauts every five years after that.

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eventually 最終的には record(形容詞的に)記録的な rocket up 急上昇する fall short of～:～に及ばない

document screening 書類選考 general liberal arts 一般教養 measure 測る conduct 行う prospective 将来の・期待される candidate 候補者

Q1 Why do you think applications of new astronauts rocketed up from the last time(2008)?

Q2 女性の候補者は、前回(2008 年)と比べて、どのような変化がありましたか。

Q3 This May, what kind of tests did 2,266 applicants take?

Q4 7 月 18 日～8 月 9 日にかけて行われた試験は、どのような能力を測るものでしたか。

Q5 下線①について、男女比と、世代の比率について、説明しましょう。(※世代比は次のページ参照)

Q6 When will the astronauts be chosen?

Q7 How often will JAXA recruit astronauts after this exam?

Q8 次のページの “Generations of the applicants” の表を見て、気がついたことを発表しましょう。

Q13 Some people say we should stop space exploration program and work on more important things such as environmental pollution or poverty on earth. Do you think that space exploration should be continued?

## Generations of the applicants

	total applicants 【April 5 <sup>th</sup> 】	Applicants that passed document screening 【May 19 <sup>th</sup> 】	Applicants that passed English & liberal arts Test 【June 28 <sup>th</sup> 】
in their 20s	811 (19.7%)	483 (21.3%)	61 (29.8%)
in their 30s	1,850 (44.8%)	1,084 (47.8%)	107 (52.2%)
in their 40s	973 (23.6%)	513 (22.6%)	31 (15.1%)
in their 50s	424 (10.3%)	163 (7.2%)	6 (2.9%)
in their 60s	69 (1.7%)	23 (1.0%)	0
Total	4,127	2,266	205

	Applicants that passed the first test 【September 30 <sup>th</sup> 】
in their 20s	12 (24%)
in their 30s	30 (60%)
in their 40s	8 (16%)
in their 50s	0
in their 60s	0
Total	50

参考資料：JAXA 宇宙飛行士 試験選抜結果

[https://www.jaxa.jp/press/2022/09/20220930-1\\_j.html](https://www.jaxa.jp/press/2022/09/20220930-1_j.html)

[https://astro-mission.jaxa.jp/astro\\_selection/item/Application.pdf](https://astro-mission.jaxa.jp/astro_selection/item/Application.pdf)

◆次の文を 3 回以上読んで、暗唱しましょう。

- 1) JAXA announced that they no longer require astronauts to have educational backgrounds and work experience in scientific-related fields.
- 2) The change was made because they hope to employ more diverse crews with a wide range of experience for the future lunar exploration missions.
- 3) Applicants must have skills of sharing their experience and achievements with other people.
- 4) The average age of the current six Japanese astronauts is 52, and they are all men. So JAXA said they would actively recruit women.

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(和訳)

- 1) JAXA は、もう宇宙飛行士達に、科学系の分野の学歴や職歴を持つことを求めない、と発表した。
- 2) その変更がなされたのは、彼らが来るべき月面探査ミッションに向けて、より幅広い経験を持つ多様な人材を採用したい意図しているからである。
- 3) 応募者は、自分の経験や成功体験について、他者にシェアするスキルを持っていないといけない。
- 4) 現在の日本人宇宙飛行士の平均年齢は 52 歳である。そして彼らは全員男性である。そのため、JAXA は積極的に女性を募集するつもりだと言っている。