

New NASA job – to protect Earth from aliens

4th August, 2017



America's space agency NASA has an exciting new job opening to protect Earth from aliens. The position is for a Planetary Protection Officer (PPO). The

successful applicant will be responsible for making sure no life forms from outer space come to Earth. The PPO makes sure astronauts and space equipment do not come back from space with any alien bacteria. The position was posted on the usajobs.gov website. According to the post, the new PPO will get a yearly salary of up to \$187,000. The job contract is for three years, but could be extended for an additional two years. It is one of the most unique job positions in the world. NASA only employs two PPOs. The job is only open to U.S. citizens and U.S. nationals.

People who want to apply for the job must be well qualified. Candidates must have "broad engineering expertise" and have a degree in physical science, engineering or mathematics. The candidate must also show they have experience in "planning, executing, or overseeing elements of space programs of national significance". A final requirement is that the candidate has "skills in diplomacy that resulted in win-win solutions during extremely difficult and complex multilateral discussions". The new PPO will be responsible for planning several future NASA missions. One of these will be a trip to one of Jupiter's icy moons, Europa. The mission will search for signs of alien life on the moon.

Sources: usajobs.gov / nypost.com / newsweek.com

Writing

The Earth needs protecting from alien life. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

space agency / Earth / aliens / applicant / outer space / salary / unique / citizens / qualified / candidates / engineering / skills / diplomacy / discussions / missions

True / False

- The abbreviation for NASA's new job opening is POP. T / F
- The successful candidate will check astronauts for alien bacteria. T / F
- The contract for the NASA job is for five years. T / F
- The job is open for anyone with experience of space programmes. T / F
- Candidates need to have experience in engineering. T / F
- The successful candidate has experience of win-win solutions. T / F
- The successful candidate will have to help plan future NASA missions. T / F
- The article says a mission to a Jupiter moon will look for rocks. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. opening | a. skill |
| 2. applicant | b. annual |
| 3. come back | c. a number of |
| 4. yearly | d. candidate |
| 5. additional | e. parts |
| 6. expertise | f. extra |
| 7. elements | g. vacancy |
| 8. significance | h. journey |
| 9. several | i. return |
| 10. mission | j. importance |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- How could we stop aliens attacking Earth?
- How are your skills in diplomacy?
- When was the last win-win situation you were in?
- Why are many aliens in movies cute?
- What's the best aliens movie you've seen?
- What would NASA do if they found life on another planet?
- What questions would you like to ask NASA?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. successful | a. job positions in the world |
| 2. life forms from outer | b. alien life on the moon |
| 3. The job contract | c. qualified |
| 4. It is one of the most unique | d. applicant |
| 5. The job is only open | e. in physical science |
| 6. well | f. is for three years |
| 7. a degree | g. space |
| 8. space programs of national | h. solutions |
| 9. win-win | i. to U.S. citizens |
| 10. The mission will search for signs of | j. significance |

Discussion – Student B

- Why would you be good at this job?
- What do you know about NASA?
- Are there aliens out there?
- What three questions would you ask an alien?
- Why might aliens want to attack Earth?
- Who should aliens talk to on Earth, and why?
- What problems might alien bacteria cause on Earth?
- What would a PPO do every day?

Spelling

- America's space caneyg NASA
- The ssfcluesu applicant
- space qnetmepiu
- for an adatlniodi two years
- one of the most nuiqueu job positions
- only open to U.S. teciizsn
- engineering ptserxeie
- a egdere in physical science
- programs of atnlnaoi significance
- win-win tsolionus
- psseobieln for planning
- The smsiino will search for signs of alien life

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. f
6. a	7. e	8. j	9. c	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Qualifications

You think qualifications are the most important thing to pass an interview. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): confidence, experience or a nice suit.

Role B – Confidence

You think confidence is the most important thing to pass an interview. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): qualifications, experience or a nice suit.

Role C – Experience

You think experience is the most important thing to pass an interview. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): confidence, qualifications or a nice suit.

Role D – Nice Suit

You think a nice suit is the most important thing to pass an interview. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): confidence, experience or qualifications.

Speaking – Job Interviews

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things for a job interview at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| • confidence | • ambition |
| • experience | • nice smile |
| • diplomacy skills | • qualifications |
| • general knowledge | • nice suit |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.