Applications are invited from highly motivated candidates for selection as Junior Research Fellows (JRF) in the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL). JRFs at PRL will be encouraged to register for a Ph.D. degree at an Institute/University with which PRL has an MoU. PRL’s research scholars will adhere to the norms of the registering Institute/University as agreed upon in the MoU.

PRL, known as the ‘cradle of space sciences’, is a premier national research institution under the aegis of the Department of Space, Government of India. The broad areas of ongoing research activities in PRL are Astronomy and Astrophysics, Solar Physics, Space and Atmospheric Sciences, Atomic and Molecular Physics, Optical Physics, Astrochemistry, Theoretical Physics, Geosciences, and Planetary Sciences and Space Exploration.

Those selected as a JRF will be joining PRL in July 2021 (subject to the COVID-19 situation).

Minimum qualifications to apply:

- Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Science or Engineering with at least a first-class (60%) or equivalent grades at both Bachelor’s and Master’s levels.
- Those candidates expecting their Master’s degree by August 2021 are also eligible to apply, subject to having secured at least a first-class (60%) or equivalent grade(s) up to the last semester.
- Applicants should have qualified in any one of the following examinations:

Applicants whose All India ranks are in the range of 1–500 in any of the CSIR-UGC-NET/GATE/JEST tests are quite likely to be called for an interview at PRL subject to their fulfilling other eligibility criteria as mentioned above and online application through PRL’s website. It is expected that prospective candidates have good proficiency in fundamental physics and mathematics. Candidates should be interested in pursuing a research career in the current areas of research at PRL, as mentioned above. Preference will be given to candidates who have completed their Master’s degree in the last two years. About 23 JRF positions are available. PRL is an equal opportunity institute, women candidates are encouraged to apply.

Fellowship: As per the norms of the Department of Space, Govt of India. Renewal of fellowship is based on a review conducted each year. JRFs are promoted to Senior Research Fellows (SRFs) after a successful review in the second year. The total duration of the Fellowship will be five years.

Nationality: Candidates must be Indian citizens and have studied at recognized Universities/Institutes in India.

Age limit: 28 years as on the last date of the application.

Application procedure: Candidates satisfying the minimum eligibility criteria, as mentioned above, may visit the PRL website, https://www.prl.res.in, for more information on the discipline-wise eligibility, research areas, selection procedure, etc. An online application form can be filled during 29 March 2021 to 10 May 2021. ONLINE interviews for screened-in candidates will be held on 3, 4, 7 and 8 June 2021. It is solely the responsibility of the candidate to ensure fulfillment of the eligibility criteria as notified and has fully complied with the procedural requirements and time limits stipulated for submission of online application. Any deviations from the procedures notified would result in the cancellation of candidature, and no representation on such matters will be entertained.