ASTRONAUT BIOGRAPHY

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas 77058

July 2026

Christopher L. Williams

(Ph.D.) NASA Astronaut

Summary:
Chris Williams was selected by NASA to join the 2021 Astronaut Candidate Class. He graduated from Stanford University (Palo Alto, California), with a bachelor's degree in physics in 2005 and earned a doctorate in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge, Massachusetts) in 2012, where his research was in astrophysics. Williams is a board-certified medical physicist, completing his residency training at Harvard Medical School (Boston, Massachusetts), before joining the faculty as a clinical physicist and researcher. Williams launched to the International Space Station aboard the Roscosmos Soyuz MS-28 spacecraft on Nov. 27, 2025, returning to Earth on July 26, 2026.

Personal Data:
Born in New York City, Williams considers Potomac, Maryland, to be his hometown. He is married to Aubrey Samost-Williams, originally of North Reading, Massachusetts, and they have two daughters. Williams' parents are Roger Williams and Ginger Macomber of Potomac. He enjoys hiking, camping, cooking, and traveling. He is also a private pilot and Eagle Scout.

Education:
Graduated from Montgomery Blair High School, Silver Spring, Maryland, in 2001. Earned a bachelor's degree in physics from Stanford University in 2005 and a doctorate in physics from MIT in 2012. Completed residency training at the Harvard Medical Physics Residency Program in 2015.

Experience:
At the time of his selection, Williams was an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts, where he worked as a medical physicist in the Radiation Oncology Department at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. He was the lead physicist for the Institute's MR-guided adaptive radiation therapy program. His research focused on developing new image guidance techniques for cancer treatments.

Williams' doctoral research at MIT was in astrophysics, focusing on developing radio telescope instrumentation and data processing techniques for cosmology. He was part of the team that built the Murchison Widefield Array, a low-frequency radio telescope array in Western Australia designed to study the epoch of reionization of the early universe. During high school and college, Williams worked at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C., studying supernovae using the Very Large Array radio telescope. He has also served as a volunteer emergency medical technician and firefighter.

NASA Experience:
Williams was selected as a NASA astronaut candidate in December 2021 and reported for duty in January 2022 to complete two years of initial astronaut training. During his first mission to the International Space Station, NASA astronaut Chris Williams served as a flight engineer and Expedition 74 crew member. He launched aboard the Roscosmos Soyuz MS-28 spacecraft on Nov. 27, 2025, returning to Earth on July 26, 2026. During his first mission, Williams logged 241 days in space and completed two spacewalks, totaling 14 hours and 22 minutes, to prep for space station power system upgrades and to replace a faulty joint on the Canadarm2 robotic arm.

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Awards/Honors:
Eagle Scout, MIT Bruno Rossi Fellowship (2006), Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship (2006), American Astronomical Society Beth Brown Memorial Award (2009); Brigham Research Institute Innovator Award (2017).

Organizations:
Member of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine.