JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

- Assistant Professor at JASMINE Project, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) -

NAOJ invites applications for an assistant professor position as follows:

1. Job Title: Assistant Professor, one position
2. Division and Location: JASMINE Project, Mitaka, Tokyo
   (Scope of possible changes) Place designated by NINS / NAOJ
3. Area of Expertise: Astronomy, and/or related fields
4. Job Description:

   The National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) has the JASMINE Project aiming to develop the science payload and the mission operation system of the JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency)'s infrared space astrometry mission, JASMINE. JASMINE will conduct high-precision infrared astrometry toward the central region of the Milky Way to study its formation and evolution, and will also carry out time-domain observations for the exploration of potentially habitable exoplanets. JASMINE completed the Mission Definition Review (MDR) at the JAXA Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS) in July 2024 and is currently advancing technical studies and organizational preparations toward the next phase of the mission.

   JASMINE will repeatedly observe stars over the mission period and produce an astrometric catalog for more than 100,000 stars. To achieve the required astrometric precision, the mission must establish, before launch, analysis methods and infrastructure that use large-scale observation simulations to evaluate performance, calibrate systematic effects, and derive astrometric parameters. The JASMINE Project therefore develops the instrument, observation strategy, and data analysis system in close coordination so that the required precision is achieved by the mission system as a whole.

   We invite applications for an assistant professor position at the JASMINE Project of NAOJ. A successful candidate for this position is expected:

   (i) to lead the development of analysis methods to derive astrometric parameters from JASMINE observational data, including verification using mission-scale simulations and relevant observational data;
   (ii) to make a significant contribution to the design and construction of the data analysis infrastructure required for JASMINE, including adaptation to emerging computational technologies and environments;
   (iii) to make a significant contribution to the operation of JASMINE astrometric data analysis and to the public release of the JASMINE astrometric catalog;
   (iv) to collaborate with other NAOJ projects and centers to advance JASMINE data analysis, while also contributing to the development of astronomical big data analysis;
   (v) to foster early carrier scientists and graduate students at NAOJ and to collaborate with them through activities related to the JASMINE mission and its broader scientific applications.

   (Scope of possible changes) Research and teaching activities designated by NINS / NAOJ

5. Terms of Appointment:
   The successful candidate should be able to start as soon as reasonably possible after the job offer has been accepted. The term of contract is up to the end of the Japanese academic year in which the faculty reaches NAOJ's mandatory retirement age of 65. The probation period of six months is included.

A review for the continuation of employment as an assistant professor will occur during the fifth year. If the review determines that the successful candidate has not satisfactorily fulfilled the duties of an assistant professor, the successful candidate will be requested to transfer to another position within NAOJ.

6. Minimum Educational Requirement and qualifications:
   Ph.D. or equivalent in astronomy or related fields

   To carry out the responsibilities described in Section 4, a candidate is expected to have the following abilities and experience.
   (a) Experience in the development of data analysis software, preferably with experience in large-scale data analysis or statistical modeling.
   (b) Willingness and ability to adopt new analysis methods and programming technologies and to adapt flexibly to next-generation computing environments, including GPU-based systems.
   (c) Ability to integrate heterogeneous astronomical data and catalogs for scientific research is desirable.
   (d) Communication skills necessary to work effectively with researchers and engineers in domestic and international collaborations, and a strong interest in fostering students and young researchers.

7. Required Application Materials: (*To be prepared in English. Any other language will not be accepted.)
   (1) A cover letter;
   (2) A curriculum vitae;
   (3) A list of publications (Separate refereed and non-refereed papers). SPIE can be included in refereed papers.
   (4) A summary of your past research activities, including international collaborations;
   (5) Your commitment and plan to fulfill the duties (including your research plans as needed);
   (6) Your address (e-mail and phone) for prompt contact and the email address of your current supervisor or line manager; and
   (7) Two or more reference letters. Reference letters should be written by faculty/staff with tenured positions. Reference letters from multiple countries are preferred. Please ask your references to upload the letters directly to the URL indicated in 9 before the deadline. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the letters are submitted before the application deadline.

8. Application Deadline: 2026-12-18, 12:00 (noon) (Japan Standard Time)

9. Submission:
   Applicants are required to apply via the NAOJ Nextcloud on the web. Please access the application form at the following URL:
   https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/gxe2Vzw9Fv
   After you submit the initial form, you will receive an email showing the URLs for (a) uploading your application documents, and (b) for your reference letters.
   Once you get the URL(a) for your application documents, please upload the files corresponding to the documents (1) through (6) stated in 7. These files must be in PDF format (max 50MB each, 100MB in total, at most 10 files).
   Please ask your references to upload their letters via the URL(b) you receive for this purpose.

For inquiries, please contact with a subject; “Question on Assistant Professor of JASMINE”
E-mail: ryouhei.kano_AT_nao.ac.jp (replace _AT_ with @)
Professor Kano, Ryouhei, Director of JASMINE Project, NAOJ

If you have any questions related to submissions or other items,
please contact with a subject; “Question on Assistant Professor of JASMINE”
E-mail: job04-assistantprof_AT_nao.ac.jp (replace _AT_ with @)

10. Labor Conditions:
    (1) Work Type and Work Hours:
    The Discretionary Labor System for Professional Work shall be applied.
    (Standard work hours: 38.75 hrs/week, from 8:30 to 17:15 with an hour intermission)
    (2) Holidays:
    Saturdays and Sundays, National Holidays, New Year holidays (December 29th - January 3rd),
    Annual paid leave (20 days: to be prorated for the first year), Refreshment leave (3 days), Summer closure, Bereavement leave, etc.
    (3) Social Insurances:
    MEXT Mutual Aid Association (health insurance), Employees' Pension Insurance, Employment Insurance, Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance
    (4) Remuneration:
    Salary: The amount of an annual salary shall be determined based on the school career and job experiences in accordance with the NINS regulations (NINS, or the National Institutes of Natural Sciences, is an executive institute that manages NAOJ). The payment will be made monthly in 12 equivalents.
    Allowances: Dependent allowance, residential allowance, commutation allowance, and the other allowances will be paid when the requirements based on the NINS regulations are all filled. The equivalent of the term-end allowance and the diligence allowance shall be included in the annual salary.
    Salary Increase: Once a year in accordance with the performance evaluation
    Retirement Allowance: Shall be paid
    Travel and relocation: Eligible employees will be provided with a relocation travel package to NAOJ, subject to the travel regulations of NINS (details must be arranged with the administration office).

11. Remarks:
    - Candidates selected in the final short list may be interviewed by the selection committee either via the internet or face-to-face during December 23-25, 2026 (exact date to be assigned). The expense for the interview will not be covered by NAOJ.
    - This position is subject to the NINS Employee Regulations. The annual salary schedule indicated in Table (2) of the Research-Education Employee Base Annual Salary shall be applied to this position.
    - If the selection committee deems that there is no qualified candidate for this position, it is possible no one will be selected.
    - Smoking is prohibited on the premises excluding designated outdoor smoking areas.
    - Policy for Equal Employment Opportunity: Abiding by the Equal Employment Opportunity

Act for Men and Women, NAOJ is committed to the realization of a society with gender equality.

- If two candidates are deemed equal in their performance evaluation, NAOJ will take positive action to employ women.
- If you have taken a leave(s) such as for maternity, childcare, and/or family care, please indicate it in your curriculum vitae. We will consider it when assessing your performance.

For further information about NAOJ's efforts to achieve gender equal society, see
https://www2.nao.ac.jp/~open-info/gender-equality/en/

- NINS implements the program to support staff members (young researchers) who received educational loans (scholarships) from the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) and are now repaying them. For details, see
https://www.nins.jp/about/folder7/dairihenkan.html
- NINS does not tolerate any form of sexual harassment against job applicants or prospective applicants in connection with job search and recruitment activities. For information on the relevant rules and consultation services, please refer to the basic policy available through the link below.
https://www.nins.jp/open/assets/j_hara_nins20260910.pdf
- Information submitted in your application documents will not be used for any purpose other than the selection process and for contacting you with necessary notices in connection with the selection. Once the selection process is complete, we will securely dispose of all application documents and personal information, except for those submitted by the successful candidate.

12. Name of recruiter
Inter-University Research Institute Corporation, National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS), National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ)