JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
- Associate Professor, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) -

NAOJ invites applications from researchers for an associate professor position as follows:

1. Job Title: Associate Professor, one position

2. Division and Location: Gravitational Wave Science Project (GWSP), Mitaka Office
(Scope of possible changes) Place designated by NINS / NAOJ

3. Area of Expertise: Astronomy, Physics, Engineering, or Instrumentation

4. Job Description:

The National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) promotes cutting-edge astronomy through the construction and operation of large-scale facilities and the development of advanced instruments. The NAOJ Gravitational Wave Science Project (GWSP) develops gravitational-wave astronomy and contributes to the construction, operation, commissioning, and upgrade of KAGRA, a 3-km-scale cryogenic gravitational-wave telescope located underground in Kamioka, Gifu, Japan, in collaboration with the Institute for Cosmic Ray Research (ICRR), The University of Tokyo, and the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK). The GWSP also develops key technologies for future KAGRA upgrades and next-generation ground- and space-based gravitational-wave detectors.

We invite applications for an associate professor position in GWSP. The successful candidate is expected to:

1. lead KAGRA's Auxiliary Optics Group and oversee the development and enhancement of KAGRA's auxiliary optical systems. As the highest-priority task in preparation for the fifth observing run (O5), the candidate will lead the upgrade of the Output Mode Cleaner (OMC) and its implementation in KAGRA, including the development of its vibration-isolation platform, in close collaboration with the Vibration Isolation Group;
2. advance the development of foundational technologies—such as optical systems, sensors, vibration isolation, and control systems—for future upgrades of KAGRA, as well as for next-generation ground-based and space-based gravitational-wave detectors;
3. support the management of KAGRA and GWSP from a technical perspective and promote collaboration among relevant groups and institutions.

The successful candidate will also hold a concurrent appointment with NAOJ's Advanced Technology Center (ATC) to facilitate efficient collaboration with ATC engineers in the development of the OMC, while also extending gravitational-wave technologies such as sensors, optics, vibration isolation, and control to other fields and practical applications. In particular, the candidate will promote applications of inertial sensors to space missions in collaboration with the Space Innovation Center (SIC). Through O5, approximately 80% of the candidate's effort is expected to be devoted to GWSP and 20% to ATC. The primary work location is Mitaka. The candidate will also contribute to activities in the broader NAOJ community, and to the development of the next generation of researchers and engineers, including PhD students.

Applicants are expected to have broad knowledge and hands-on experience in experimental astronomy or physics, with broad knowledge spanning optics, sensors, vibration isolation and control, and ultra-high-vacuum technology, as well as demonstrated leadership and good communication skills in English.

(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 the contract will continue up to the end of the Japanese academic year in which the faculty reaches NAOJ's mandatory retirement age of 65. The Probation period is 6 months.

6. Qualifications:

(1) Minimum Educational Requirement: Ph.D. or equivalent
(2) Requirement regarding research experience: Development of instrumentation for gravitational-wave telescopes
(3) Other Requirements: Fluent English communication and experience of experiments

7. Required Application Materials in English

(1) Cover letter;
(2) Curriculum vitae;
(3) Publications list (Separate refereed and non-refereed papers);
(4) 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: 2027-01-14, 12:00 (noon) (Japan Standard Time)

9. Application and Contacts:

9.1. How to Submit an Application:

Applicants are required to apply via the NAOJ Nextcloud on the web.

(1) Please access the following URL for registration: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/DVx7ExhpKe
(2) After you submit the registration form, you will receive an email showing the URLs for (a) uploading your application documents and (b) for your reference letters.
(3) Please ask your references to upload their letters via the URL (2)(b).
(4) Please upload the application documents (from 7. (1) through 7. (6) above) via the URL (2)(a). These files must be in PDF format (max 50MB each, 100MB in total, at most 10 files).

9.2. Contacts: If you have any questions related to the job description, contact;

E-mail: takayuki.tomaru_AT_nao.ac.jp (replace _AT_ with @)
Professor Tomaru, Takayuki,
Director of Gravitational Wave Science Project (GWSP), NAOJ,
Subject of e-mail: "Question on JD of Associate Professor of NAOJ-GWSP"

If you have any questions related to the other items, contact;
E-mail address: job02-associateprof_AT_nao.ac.jp (replace _AT_ with @)
Subject of e-mail: "Question on Associate Professor of NAOJ-GWSP"

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 (20days: 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: Annual salary shall be determined based on professional knowledge, skills, required education, and job experiences as per the NINS regulations (NINS, or the National Institutes of Natural Sciences, is an upper-level organization that manages NAOJ). Payments will be made monthly in 12 equal installments.
Allowances: Dependent allowance, residential allowance, commutation allowance, and other allowances will be paid to employees who meet the conditions outlined in the NINS regulations. An amount equivalent to the year-end allowance and diligence allowance will be included in the annual salary.
Salary Increment: Once a year in accordance with the performance review
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. The expense for the interview will not be covered by NAOJ.
- The work location may be NAOJ Kamioka branch depending on the situation of the project.
- The NAOJ Advisory Committee for Research and Management will make the final decision for the appointment.
- NINS Employee Regulations (NINS is an executive institute that manages NAOJ) shall be applied to this position.
- 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.
- 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. For details, see https://www2.nao.ac.jp/%7Eopen-info/gender-equality/en/

- If you have taken a leave(s) such as for maternity, child care, and/or family care, please indicate it in your curriculum vitae. We will consider it when assessing your performance.
- Smoking is prohibited on the premises excluding designated outdoor smoking areas.
- 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)