

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Senior Specialists, ALMA Project, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ)

The Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) is currently the most advanced on-ground radio telescope at millimeter and submillimeter wavelengths. It is located in Chile and operated by a global partnership of East Asia, North America and Europe, in cooperation with the Republic of Chile. The telescope has produced a number of ground-breaking scientific outcomes since it became operational in 2011. To further enhance its scientific capabilities, the 'ALMA 2 Project' has been launched to upgrade its functionality.

For this project, we are seeking several software and IT engineers who are based at the Mitaka Headquarter of NAOJ and are responsible for software development and maintenance, and/or the design, implementation, and operation of IT systems and infrastructure.

【Vacant Post】 Several Senior Specialists (employee on annual salary system)

【Division】 ALMA Project

【Duty Station】 2-21-1 Osawa, Mitaka, Tokyo, Japan (Scope of possible changes) No change

【Responsibilities】

The successful candidate's major responsibilities are one or more areas in the followings:

1. Development and maintenance of data processing software for ALMA telescope (mainly for single dish data). [JD1]
2. Development and maintenance of spectrometer software for ALMA telescope. [JD2]
3. Deployment and operation of the ALMA science archive system which consists of database, object storage, and web portal. [JD3]
4. Design, development, implementation, and operation of services and IT infrastructure for the NAOJ ALMA Project. [JD4]

(Scope of possible changes) Responsibilities determined by NINS/NAOJ

【Term of Employment】

Employment will start from the date as soon as reasonably possible after the job offer has been accepted. The term is for 3 years (※1), including the probation period of 6 months.

※1: In the final fiscal year of the employment, NAOJ will conduct a review on the amount of assigned work, the status of ongoing work, work skills, work performance, work attitudes, and the financial situation of the National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS) at the expiration of the term of employment. Based on the review results, the term of employment may be extended. (※2)

※2: For a person who has been employed by NINS within 6 months retroactively from the starting date, the term will be set so that the total employment period will be less than 10 years

【Qualification Requirements】

Minimum Experience and Skills:

Common to all areas:

- a. Experience in developing software or implementing IT systems on a Unix (Linux) OS in a team environment.
- b. Proficiency in English: Ability to read and write software documents in English. Communication skills in English equivalent to TOEIC score higher than or equal to 600 points, or EIKEN Grade 2.
- c. IT knowledge equivalent to passing the Fundamental Information Technology Engineer Examination by Information-technology Promotion Agency (IPA), Japan, or having equivalent or higher experience.

For JD1:

- d. Proficiency in Python.

For JD2:

- e. Proficiency in at least one of Java, C++ or Python.

For JD3 and JD4:

- f. Experience and knowledge on implementing and operating virtualization environments (either hypervisor-based or container-based).
- g. One or both of the following experience and knowledge:
 - Implementing and operating web systems using container technologies.
 - Implementing and operating SQL and RDBMS servers.
- h. Experience and knowledge on implementing and operating corporate IT systems.
- i. Experience and knowledge on implementing and operating Unix (Linux) based computer systems.
- j. Proficiency in Japanese: Ability to communicate in Japanese both verbally and via emails.
Communication skills in Japanese equivalent to Level N2 of Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT).

Preferred Experience and Skills:

- k. Experience in using version control system, Git, to develop and manage source codes. (common to all areas)
- l. Experience in developing high performance programs for multi-core or cluster environments in Python. (JD1)
- m. Background knowledge of astronomy or expertise in processing data observed by radio telescopes or by other astronomical instruments. (JD1)
- n. Experience in writing software design and specification documents. (JD2)
- o. Experience in designing, developing, testing, and operating instruments (not limited to astronomical instruments). (JD2)
- p. Knowledge or practical experience in signal processing methods such as Fourier analysis and FFT. (JD2)
- q. Experience in developing high performance programs using GPU processing. (JD2)
- r. Experience in implementing and operating network systems. (JD3 and JD4)
- s. Experience in implementing and operating large scale storage systems. (JD3 and JD4)

t. Experience in implementing and operating systems on commercial cloud services. (JD3 and JD4)

【Working Hours】

- 5 days a week (Monday through Friday) with Saturday and Sunday off, national holidays, year-end and new year holidays (from December 29 through January 3 of the next year).
- From 8:30 am (start of working hours) to 5:15 pm (closing of working hours) including 60-min lunch break each day. The total working hours will be 38.75 hours a week.
- ※ Order of overtime work may be expected in a special occasion when required in the assigned work.

【Compensation】

Salary will be paid based on annual salary system, equivalent to an assistant professor or an engineer at national universities.

- One-twelfth of the annual salary will be paid every month. The amount of annual salary is determined according to responsibilities of work, actual performance, and experience etc.
- Salary will be reviewed every fiscal year according to the results of performance reviews.

Commuting allowance (subject to a maximum limit) *Allowances are provided pursuant to the NINS internal rules and regulations.

Health insurance, pension insurance, unemployment insurance, and industrial accident insurance will be provided.

Paid days off (annual leave, refreshment holidays, summer closure, and bereavement leave, etc.)

Day-care center for children (from 57 days after birth). *Availability depends on the situation. Childcare staff does not provide English support.

Smoking is prohibited on the premises excluding designated outdoor smoking areas.

Travel and relocation costs to NAOJ will be covered, subject to the travel regulations of NINS (details must be arranged with the administration office).

【Selection Process】

A candidate will be selected through a screening of application documents and interview(s) (in person or online).

【Application Documents】

- (1) A curriculum vitae with a portrait photo
- (2) A summary of past work experiences (can be merged with the document (1))
- (3) A personal statement describing intentions for the applied position including related experience and achievements (in two pages of A4 sized paper). A TOEIC score and/or the Grade of EIKEN should be provided if the applicant has taken the exams.
- (4) Your e-mail address and phone number for prompt contact

【Application Deadline】 April 10, 2026, 12:00 noon (Japan Standard Time)

【Submission】

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

(1) Please access the following URL for registration:

<https://forms.office.com/r/77qMPmajND>

(2) After you submit the registration form, you will receive an email showing the URL for uploading your application documents.

(3) Please upload the application documents via the URL. These files must be in PDF format (max 50MB each, 100MB in total, at most 10 files).

Notes:

- After submitting the registration form, you will receive a notification email containing the URL for uploading your application documents within three business days, excluding weekends and public holidays.
- Please ensure that the notification email does not get filtered into your spam or junk mail folder.
- Application documents must be in PDF format (maximum of 50MB each, 100MB in total, at most 10 files).
- After the deadline, you will receive a confirmation email within three business days, excluding weekends and public holidays.
- If you do not receive any response from NAOJ, please contact the email address below.

【Contacts】

(Inquiry about application)

NAOJ Personnel Unit, General Affairs Group, Administration Department

E-mail: jobregister-contact-10_AT_nao.ac.jp (replace _AT_ with @)

(Inquiry about job details)

NAOJ ALMA Project, Kanako Sugimoto

E-mail: kanako.sugimoto_AT_nao.ac.jp (replace _AT_ with @)

Subject of e-mail: “Question on Senior Specialist (Data Processing) at ALMA Project”

【Name of recruiter】

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

【Others】

- Candidates selected in the final short list may be interviewed by the selection committee either via internet or face-to-face. The expense for the interview will not be covered by NAOJ.
- This position is not applicable to the debt-forgiveness program of the Japan Scholarship Foundation.
- Abiding by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act for Men and Women, NAOJ is committed to the realization of a society with gender equality. If candidates are deemed equal in their performance evaluation, NAOJ will take positive action to employ women. For details, see <https://www2.nao.ac.jp/~open-info/gender-equality/en/>
- 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.