

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

NAOJ invites applications from researchers for a project assistant professor position as follows:

1. Job Title: Project Assistant Professor, one position
2. Division and Location: Gravitational Wave Science Project (GWSP), NAOJ Mitaka campus, Tokyo. Depending on project requirements, the work location may also be the NAOJ Kamioka branch, Gifu.
3. Area of Expertise: Astronomy or Physics
4. Job Description:

The National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) has been playing a key role in the forefront of astronomical research worldwide, as demonstrated in the construction and operation of large-scale astronomical facilities as well as in the development of space-based instruments, in the effort to promote cutting-edge astronomy utilizing these advanced telescopes. The NAOJ Gravitational Wave Science Project (GWSP) is a project office to develop gravitational wave astronomy and to contribute to the construction and operation of KAGRA, which is a 3km-scale cryogenic gravitational wave telescope constructed in Kamioka underground, Gifu, Japan, in collaboration with the Institute for Cosmic Ray Research in the University of Tokyo and High Energy Accelerator Research Organization. In addition to KAGRA, the NAOJ GWSP has another important role to manage TAMA300 (interferometric gravitational wave test facility with 300m arm-length in NAOJ Mitaka campus), aiming to develop new technologies.

We invite applications for a project assistant professor position in the GWSP. A successful candidate for this position is expected to:

- 1) lead the development of low-absorption large sapphire substrates.
- 2) lead the characterization of the sapphire mirrors used as KAGRA's test masses.
- 3) lead the demonstration of advanced frequency-dependent squeezing methods for future gravitational-wave detectors

The successful candidate is also expected to actively collaborate with international gravitational-wave projects.

As prerequisites for this position, applicants are expected to have a wide range of experience and skills in the field of astronomy or physics, and to have leadership for experimental projects.

*Possibility of changes to job duties: None

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 is for 3 years (See Notes ※1 and ※2 below) including the probation period of 6 months. An annual performance review will be conducted.

※1: Contract may be renewed, provided that the contract term shall not be renewed beyond 31 March 2031. Renewal of contract will be determined in consideration of one or more of the following criteria:

- Volume of workload at the time of expiration of contract
- Progressing conditions of present business
- Aptitude, work records and attitude of an employee
- Financial condition of NINS

※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.

6. Qualifications:

- (1) Minimum Educational Requirement: Ph.D. or equivalent
- (2) Other Requirements: Fluent English communication and experience of experiments

7. Required Application Materials : (*To be prepared 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. Note that your current supervisor or line manager cannot be your reference. Please ask your references to upload their letters via the URL provided in Section 9.1(2)(b) before the application deadline. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the letters arrive before the application deadline. (Reference letters should be written by faculty/staff with tenured positions, and no more than one reference letter will be accepted from each country.)

8. Application Deadline: 2026-August 31, 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/dim6zydzMC>

- (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 required in 7. (7) 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: kentaro.komori_AT_nao.ac.jp (replace _AT_ with @)

Associate Professor Komori, Kentaro, GWSP, NAOJ,

Subject of e-mail: “Question on Project Assistant Professor of GWSP, NAOJ”

If you have any questions related to the other items, contact;

E-mail address: job16-naoj-pap_AT_nao.ac.jp (replace _AT_ with @)

Subject of e-mail: “Question on Project Assistant Professor of GWSP, NAOJ”

10. Selection Process:

Qualified candidates who will proceed to the final selection may be interviewed by the selection committee either via the Internet or in person. The expense for the interview will not be covered by NAOJ.

11. Remarks:

- 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.
- The successful candidate will be employed under the scheme of the annual salary system of NAOJ and will be paid monthly in 12 equal payments. Bonus and retirement allowances are not provided.
- 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 details, 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>
- 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.
- 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)