

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Project Assistant Professor (Formation and Evolution of Planetary Systems), Division of Science, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ)

1. Job Title: Project Assistant Professor, one position

2. Division and Location: Division of Science, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ), Mitaka, Tokyo 181-8588, Japan

(Scope of possible changes) No changes

3. Area of Expertise: Formation and evolution of planetary systems, and/or related fields

4. Job Description:

The National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) aims to promote the development of astronomy, astrophysics, and the related fields of science. The Division of Science (DoS) has been conducting interdisciplinary research that transcends the boundaries of fields such as theoretical astronomy, multi-wavelength observations, and multi-messenger astronomy, with the goal of expanding the horizons of astronomical knowledge and achieving world-leading astronomical results. The DoS aims to strategically develop new fields of growth in natural science for further advancement of astronomy. The formation and evolution of planetary systems, including the Solar System and exoplanetary systems, have been identified as one of the Division's key strategic research areas.

Recent observational advances from facilities such as ALMA, Subaru Telescope, and JWST, together with forthcoming missions and observatories such as Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT), Roman Space Telescope, and Ariel, are rapidly transforming our understanding of planetary systems. These observations provide unprecedented constraints on protoplanetary disks, planetary system architectures, and planetary atmospheres. To fully exploit these data, it is essential to develop advanced theoretical models and numerical simulations that coherently describe a wide range of physical processes, from dust and gas evolution and planetesimal formation to planetary growth, orbital evolution, and atmospheric formation and loss.

The DoS seeks a talented researcher at the level of a Project Assistant Professor to promote theory-driven research on the formation and evolution of planetary systems and to provide scientific advice on future plans for astronomy research in Japan. The successful candidate is expected to conduct original theoretical and/or numerical studies, actively incorporate observational results, advance research on the formation and evolution of planetary systems, utilize NAOJ facilities [e.g., the Center for Computational Astrophysics (CfCA) ATERUI III], collaborate with researchers within the DoS and across NAOJ, and foster collaboration with research groups and researchers in domestic/international universities and institutes to strengthen Japan's international leadership in planetary science.

(Scope of possible changes) No changes

5. Terms of Appointment:

Employment will start from the date as soon as reasonably possible after the job offer has been accepted. The term is for 5 years (※1), including the probation period of 6 months. An annual performance review will be conducted.

※1: Contract may be renewed. 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)

※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. Qualification:

(1) Minimum Educational Requirement: Ph.D. or equivalent

7. Required Application Materials: (*To be prepared in English)

- (1) Cover letter addressing your interest in the position
- (2) Curriculum vitae
- (3) List of publications (Separate referred and non-refereed papers and provide individual citation counts from ADS)
- (4) Summary of past research activities including international collaborations
- (5) Outline of research plans
- (6) Anticipated start date of the job appointment
- (7) Your address (e-mail and phone) for prompt contact
- (8) Two reference letters

Please ask your references to upload their letters directly using the URL indicated in section 9.1 before the closing date for application. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the letters are submitted before the closing date for application.

8. Closing Date for Application: 2026-05-29, 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/7zmnc4VRF9>

(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. (7) 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: kokubo.eiichiro_AT_nao.ac.jp (replace _AT_ with @)

Professor Eiichiro Kokubo,

Division of Science, NAOJ,

Subject of e-mail: "Question on Project Assistant Professor of Division of Science, 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 Division of Science, 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. 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, Refreshment leave, 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 annual salary shall be determined based on educational background and work experience accordance with the NINS regulations (NINS, or the National Institutes of Natural Sciences, is an executive institute that manages NAOJ), equivalent to an assistant professor position. The payment will be made monthly in 12 equivalents.

- Allowances: Commuting expenses (up to 150,000 JPY per month) will be provided. Bonuses and Retirement allowances are not provided.

- Salary Increase: Once a year in accordance with the performance evaluation

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

12. Remarks:

- 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>

- 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.

13. Name of recruiter:

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