

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

-Assistant Professor, 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: Advanced Technology Center, Mitaka, Tokyo
(Scope of possible changes) Location designated by NINS / NAOJ
3. Area of Expertise: Instrumentation in Optical and Infrared Astronomy, and/or related fields
4. Job Description:

The Advanced Technology Center (ATC) of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) conducts the development of, and provides development support for, state-of-the-art astronomical observation instruments and their components used in major international projects. In the ground-based domain, these include the Subaru Telescope, the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA), the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT), and the gravitational-wave observatory KAGRA. In the space domain, ATC engages in projects such as Solar-C and JASMINE. ATC also engages in a project collaborating with JAXA for technical development of future large optical space telescope.

For these activities, the Center conducts a comprehensive, integrated development process in-house, encompassing system-level conceptual studies, basic design, manufacturing management, and performance evaluation. In addition, ATC independently undertakes the development of selected critical components.

Under this call for applications, we seek to appoint an Assistant Professor who will engage in research and development in the field of optical and infrared astronomical instrumentation and associated observational technologies. Initially, the successful candidate will primarily be responsible for the development of techniques for evaluating the optical performance of large space telescopes. In the longer term, in addition to pursuing their own research and development activities, the appointee is expected to develop into a researcher capable of leading and managing the development of observational instruments as complete system projects at NAOJ. The appointee is also expected to play an active role in the education and mentoring of young researchers, engineers, and students, contributing to the development of future generations.

(Scope of possible changes) Research and Teaching Activities designated by NINS / NAOJ

5. Terms of Appointment:

The candidate should be able to start as soon as 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 member reaches NAOJ's mandatory retirement age of 65. The hired candidate will undergo a six-month probationary period upon commencement of employment.

A review for the continuation of employment as an assistant professor will occur during the fifth year. In case that the review may result that the successful candidate couldn't have fulfilled duties as an assistant professor enough, the successful candidate would be requested to transfer to another position within NAOJ.

6. Qualifications

Minimum Educational Requirement: PhD degree in the field of Astronomy, Physics, Optical Engineering, and the related fields.

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) Publications list (Separate refereed and non-refereed papers. SPIE and COSPAR 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 plan 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; Please ask your references to upload their letters directly using the URL indicated in 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. Application Deadline: 2026-08-25, 12:00 (noon) (Japan Standard Time)

9. Application Instructions:

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/A64h5qcHap>
- (2) After you submit the registration form, you will receive an email showing the URLs for
 - (a) uploading your application documents and
 - (b) your reference letters.
- (3) Please ask your references to upload their letters via the URL shown in (2)(b).
- (4) Please upload the application documents (from 7. (1) through (6) above) via the URL (2)(a). These files must be in PDF format (max 50 MB each, 100 MB in total, at most 10 files).

9.2. Contacts:

- (1) If you have any questions related to the job description, contact;
E-mail: shinobu.ozaki_AT_nao.ac.jp (replace _AT_ with @)
Dr. Ozaki, Shinobu
Advanced Technology Center, NAOJ
Subject of e-mail: "Question on JD of Assistant Professor of the ATC, NAOJ"
- (2) If you have any questions related to the job application system or other items, contact,
E-mail address: job04-assistantprof_AT_nao.ac.jp (replace _AT_ with @)
Subject of e-mail: "Question on Assistant Professor of the ATC, NAOJ"

10. Notes for application:

- (1) Candidates selected in the final shortlist may be interviewed by the selection committee either in person or online. NAOJ will not cover any expenses associated with the interview.

- (2) If the selection committee determines that there are no qualified candidates for this position, this announcement may be closed without any selections.

11. Working 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)
- (3) Paid leave: Annual paid leave, Refreshment leave, Summer closure, Bereavement leave, etc.
- (4) Social Insurance: MEXT Mutual Aid Association (health insurance), Employees' Pension Insurance, Employment Insurance, Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance
- (5) 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: Provided

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).

12. Miscellaneous:

- (1) 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.
- (2) Policy for Equal Employment Opportunity: Abiding by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act for Men and Women, NAOJ is committed to realizing 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) for maternity, childcare, and 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/>
- (3) 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>
- (4) Smoking is prohibited on the premises excluding designated outdoor smoking areas.
- (5) 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 those submitted by the successful candidate.

13. Recruiting Institution:

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