

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Project Research Fellow (NAOJ Chile Fellow), National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ)

National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) invites applications for the position of Project Research Fellow (Project Researcher on Annual Salary System).

1. Job Title: Project Researcher on Annual Salary System, one position
2. Division and Location
 - (1) Division: NAOJ Chile
 - (2) Location: Santiago, Chile (In some cases, the location for within the first 3 months of employment may be Mitaka/ Mizusawa/ Okayama, Japan.)
3. Job Description
 - (1) The fellow is expected to spend 100% of time on one's own research and is expected to spend more than half for joint research in close collaboration with the University of Chile. In addition to a desk in the NAOJ Chile office, a shared office will be provided on the premise of the Department of Astronomy, the University of Chile, in Cerro Calan.
 - (2) Based on one's own ideas, the fellow develops research activities in observational astronomy or closely related fields. After spending a certain period in Chile and fulfilling the eligibility conditions defined by Chilean Society of Astronomy (<https://sochias.cl/tiempo-de-observacion/reglas-de-eligibilidad/>), the fellow can apply to Chilean observation time, except for ALMA and ASTE. The time of ALMA, ASTE, and telescopes outside Chile should be applied as a researcher belonging to NAOJ.
 - (3) It is recommended that efforts be made to expand research exchanges between Japan and Chile by collaborating with researchers in Chile and taking advantage of their complementary strengths. Examples include multi-wavelength astronomy research using VLT and Gemini telescopes, programs linking ALMA's EA and Chilean times, and analysis of data obtained by the Vera C. Rubin Observatory.
 - (4) In addition, it is expected that the fellow will transfer the knowledge gained in Chile to input the future planning of NAOJ.
4. Terms of Appointment
 - (1) The successful candidate should be able to start at the earliest convenience after April 1st, 2027, and no later than September 30th, 2027.
 - (2) The term is for 5 (3+2) years, including the probation period of 6 months. An annual performance

review will be conducted. The initial contract term is 3 years. Based on the results of the review before the end of the period of 3 years, the contract will be renewed unless there are any problems in terms of workload and progressing conditions. The period of employment following renewal shall not exceed two years, provided that the contract term shall not be renewed beyond 5 years. The proviso below regarding the total period of employment shall apply accordingly.

* If the successful candidate has been/was an NINS employee within six months retroactively from the starting date, the term will be set so that the total employed period does not exceed ten years.

*Since April 2004, if the successful candidate had been a Project Research Fellow or a Researcher (Part-time Contract Employee) at NAOJ, the term may be adjusted so that the total length of employment does not exceed five years.

5. Required Qualifications and Abilities

- (1) The applicant must have a PhD degree as of March 31st, 2027, or is expected to have it by the starting date. It should be described if the applicant is expected to have a PhD degree by September 30th, 2027.
- (2) Although not mandatory, it is preferable to have worked or studied at a research institution in Japan for at least three years.

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

- (1) Cover Letter. Please indicate the name of researchers who are submitting the reference letters in section (6).
- (2) Curriculum Vitae. If you have taken leave(s) such as maternity, childcare, and/or family care, please indicate it in your curriculum vitae. We will take it into account when assessing your performance.
- (3) Summary of Past Research Activities. This should be no more than 1200 words, except for figures and references.
- (4) Publication List: Separate the description into peer-reviewed and unpeer-reviewed papers. It is also possible to replace it with a URL to the lists in ADS Astrophysics Data System (ADS) library.
- (5) Outline of Your Research Plans: This should be no more than 1500 words, including a plan for collaborations with researchers in the University of Chile.
- (6) Two or More Reference Letters: One of which should be from a researcher in University of Chile who will work closely with you in developing collaboration in Chile.

7. Application Deadline

September 1, 2026, at 12:00 (noon) (Japan Standard Time)

8. Submission method

- (1) An applicant is required to apply via the NAOJ Nextcloud on the web. Please access the application form at the following URL:

(URL) <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/D2EW5D23Xq>

After you submit the initial form, you will receive an email showing the URLs for (a) uploading your application documents, and (b) for your reference letters.

- (2) Documents listed in 6. (1) through (5) must be combined into a single PDF file (50MB or less), and it must be uploaded to the URL (a). Also, ask the researchers who provide the reference letter to submit it to the URL (b).
- (3) If you have any general questions related to the job description, contact
E-mail: munetake.momose_AT_ao.ac.jp (replace _AT_ with @),
Dr. Munetake Momose, Director of NAOJ Chile
Subject of e-mail: “Question on JD of Project Research Fellow.”

If you have any questions related to the application process or other items, contact

E-mail: job12-pjt-researcher2_AT_ao.ac.jp (replace _AT_ with @)

Subject of e-mail: “Question on Project Research Fellow in Chile.”

9. Notes for application:

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.

10. Labor conditions

- (1) Work Type and Working Hours: The Discretionary Labor System for Professional Work shall be applied. (Standard working hours: 38.75 hours per week, from 08:30-17:15, with an hour break)
- (2) Holidays
Saturdays, Sundays, holidays at the place of work, Annual paid leave (annual leave, refreshment leave, etc.)
- (3) Social insurance
MEXT Mutual Aid Association (health insurance), Employees' pension insurance, Employment insurance, Industrial accident compensation insurance, overseas travel insurance (when working in Chile)
- (4) Remuneration
 - Salary: 350,000 JPY per month + Allowances (see below).
 - Allowance for working in Japan: Commuting allowance (up to 150,000 JPY per month) will be paid when the requirements based on the NINS regulations are met.
 - Allowances for working in Chile: There is a basic allowance, a spouse companion allowance, a child education allowance, providing leased housing, and a vacation return system. In April 2026, the basic allowance would be approximately 450,000 JPY per month, adjusted by the USD/JPY

exchange rate.

11. Remarks

- (1) A research grant of 1,000,000 JPY is provided annually.
- (2) NINS Regulations of Employment for Employees on Annual Salary System shall be applied to this position.
- (3) Travel expenses will be paid in the event of a relocation deemed necessary for arrival and when changing the place of work to NAOJ Chile.
- (4) The fellow is eligible to apply for the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research Grants.
- (5) 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 further information about NAOJ's efforts to achieve gender equal society, please refer to the link below:
<https://www2.nao.ac.jp/~open-info/gender-equality/en>
- (6) 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>
- (7) Smoking is prohibited on premises excluding designated outdoor smoking areas.
- (8) Information submitted in your application documents will not be used for any purposes other than the selection process and for contacting you with necessary notices in connection with the selection. Once the selection process is completed, we will securely dispose of all application documents and personal information, except for those submitted by the successful candidate.
- (9) For members of the Department of Astronomy at the University of Chile, please refer to the following URL.
https://www.das.uchile.cl/web_en/das_int_academicos.html

12. The recruiting institution is the Inter-University Research Institute Corporation, National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS), National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ).