

Project Research Fellow in Gravitational Wave Astronomy

National Astronomical Observatory of Japan

The Gravitational-wave Project Office at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) invites applications for Project Research Fellow (postdoctoral position) in gravitational-wave astronomy.

NAOJ has been a host institute of the TAMA300 detector, and is one of the main co-host institutes of KAGRA a large-scale cryogenic gravitational-wave detector currently being built in Japan. The Gravitational-Wave Project Office, which is located at the Mitaka campus in the western region of Tokyo, includes nearly thirty people among which one professor, one associate professor and five assistant professors. The team is in charge of several subsystems for KAGRA (vibration isolation, optics and interferometer) and is also working on advanced technologies for future ground-based and space gravitational-wave observatories.

The fellow research subject should be related to the integration and commissioning of the KAGRA gravitational-wave detector and to the research and development for its future upgrades. The project research fellow can spend half of his/her time to pursue his/her personal research and is allocated a personal research funds for this purpose. In addition, the fellow can apply for research funds to Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research as a PI and is expected to support the supervision of students both at the master and at the PhD level.

The position is available as soon as reasonably possible after the selection.

If you have any query, please contact

Prof. Junichi Watanabe

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Description of position terms and procedure to apply

1. Project research fellow is a full-time position (38h45min working hours/week) employed under the scheme of the annual salary system of NINS.
2. The term is for three years, subject to annual review for the renewal of the contract. If the applicant had been the project research fellow of NAOJ before, then the term will be set so that the total period of employment at NAOJ does not exceed five years.
3. The applicant must have a PhD degree in physics, astronomy or related fields (or is expected to have it by time he/she will start the position). A previous experience in the field of gravitational wave detection will be highly appreciated. Fluency in English is required.

4. The application documents (in English) must include
 - (1) a curriculum vitae,
 - (2) a summary of research activities in the past,
 - (3) a list of publications (Separate refereed and non-refereed papers. For co-authored papers, list all the names of authors.),
 - (4) PDF copy of three major publications, and
 - (5) an outline of research plans.

In addition, the applicant should arrange one letter of reference, to be sent from the person referring to the applicant. The name of the person should be identified in the application cover letter.

The application documents and the reference letter must be received by 17:00 JST, 31 January 2019.

5. The application documents and reference letter should be sent to:
jun.watanabe_AT_nao.ac.jp (replace _AT_ with @)
6. When the application documents are received, a confirmation mail will be sent to the applicant. If you do not receive the confirmation within two working days, please notify the inquiry address.
7. Application documents will be used only for the purpose of the selection of this position, and those documents of the applicants other than the successful candidate will be discarded.
8. The project research fellow will receive annual research funds of 500,000 JPY to be used for his/her personal research activity.
9. Commutation allowance will be paid under the NINS rules (up to 55,000 JPY per month).
10. The travel costs of the fellow him/herself to Mitaka when first taking up the fellow position will be covered, subject to the travel regulations of NINS (the details have to be arranged with the administration office).
11. The fellow will enroll in a health insurance and a welfare pension insurance plan provided by the NINS (social insurance)
12. If there is a vacancy, the fellow can rent a room in government provided housing
13. For fellows who are non-Japanese and have lived out of Japan until the starting date of employment at NAOJ for more than 183 days, NAOJ provides a financial support for housing, which covers a part of rent (some limitations apply).

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. For details, see <http://open-info.nao.ac.jp/danjokyodo/>