

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

- Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Astrobiology Center (Exo-Planet Search Project Office)

The Astrobiology Center (ABC), Exo-Planet Search Project Office is inviting applications for a position of postdoctoral research fellow. We expect applications from (non-Japanese) scientists.

Astrobiology is a new discipline that searches for places in the universe that can accommodate life and discusses the origins and evolution of life without fixating solely on the Earth. It is regarded as an extremely wide-ranging interdisciplinary subject, spanning fields including astronomy, planetary science, biology, biochemistry, earth science and engineering.

1. Job Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow, one position
2. Division and Location: Astrobiology Center, Exo-Planet Search Project Office, Mitaka, Tokyo
3. Area of Expertise: Exoplanet astronomy and Astrobiology
4. Project research fellow is a full-time position (38h45min working hours/week) employed under the scheme of the annual salary system of National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS)※.
※ Astrobiology Center is one of the institutes which consists of NINS.
5. A Successful candidate will work on scientific research field of exo-planet and astrobiology using ABC related instruments (Subaru/IRD, MuSCAT series, etc.). In addition, the candidate will be involved in promoting scientific activities such as organization and support of science workshops.
6. The successful candidate should be able to start as soon as reasonably possible after the job offer has been accepted.
The term is for three years including the probation period of six months. An annual performance review will be conducted. At the end of the contract term, there is the possibility of extending the contract up to two years, based on review. If the successful candidate has already been employed as an NINS (National Institutes of Natural Sciences) employee since April 1, 2013, the term may be set so that the total accumulated period of employment does not exceed 10 years continuously.
7. Applicants must have a Ph.D. degree, or are expected to obtain the degree by the starting date.
8. Application documents must be prepared in English, and must include (1) cover letter, (2) curriculum vitae, (3) summary of past research activities (including international collaborations), (4) list of publications (separate refereed and non-refereed papers), (5) outline of research plans (include both the plan of your own scientific research and plan for contribution to Astrobiology field in ABC), (6) the prompt contact information (e-mail address and phone number) and the e-mail address of your current supervisor or line manager, (7) two or more reference letters. Please ask the references to send their letters as an e-mail attachment to the submission address shown in 10.(1) below. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the letters arrive before the application deadline.
9. Application Deadline: 17:00 JST on January 23, 2020.

10. The e-mail addresses for the application and inquiries are

(1) Application documents and two letter of references should be sent to:

abc-apply_AT_abc-nins.jp (replace _AT_ with @).

As the subject of the e-mail, write “Application for ABC Postdoctoral Research Fellow”

(2) Contact for Inquiries:

E-mail address: motohide.tamura_AT_ao.ac.jp (replace _AT_ with @)

Prof. Tamura, Astrobiology Center Director

11. Notes for the Application:

- Convert each application document, from 8.(1) through 8.(6) listed above, into a separate PDF file and attach them to your e-mail.
- Make PDF files with appropriate resolution so that they will not be too large (file size up to 10 MB).
- Upon receipt of your application, you will receive a confirmation e-mail. If you do not receive any response from Astrobiology Center within 3 working days, please contact abc-apply_AT_abc-nins.jp (replace _AT_ with @).
- Candidates selected for the final short list may be interviewed by the selection committee either via the internet or face-to-face.
- If the selection committee decides that there is no qualified candidate for the position, it is possible that no candidate will be selected.

12. Remarks:

- The ABC Advisory Committee for Research and Management will make the final decision on the appointment.
- The fellow will receive a monthly salary of 350,000 JPY plus compensation for commuting expenses (up to 55,000 JPY per month), and annual research funds of 400,000 JPY. Social insurance will be applied. Bonus and retirement allowances are not provided. The travel and relocation costs to ABC will be covered, subject to the travel regulations of NINS (the details have to be arranged with the administration office). The qualification to apply for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research is given.
- Abiding by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act for Men and Women, ABC is committed to the realization of a society with gender equality. If two candidates are deemed equal in their performance evaluation, ABC will take positive action to employ women. For details, see
- 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 the those submitted by the successful candidate.