

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

-Associate Professor, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) -

NAOJ invites applications for an associate professor position as follows:

1. Job Title: Associate Professor, one position
2. Division and Location: Mizusawa VLBI Observatory, Mitaka, Japan
(Scope of possible changes) Location designated by NINS / NAOJ
3. Area of Expertise: radio interferometry
4. Job Description:

Mizusawa VLBI Observatory of The National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) has been playing a key role in promoting radio astronomy through VLBI arrays such as VERA (VLBI Exploration of Radio Astrometry), KaVA (KVN and VERA Array), EAVN (East Asian VLBI Network), and EHT (Event Horizon Telescope). During the current mid-term period (2022—2028), Mizusawa VLBI observatory is actively engaged in the operation of EAVN and related VLBI facilities, while also conducting cutting-edge research using VLBI in collaboration with both domestic and international astronomy community. Concurrently, together with SKA1 promotion group, established as a sub-project within the observatory, we are formulating a strategic vision to further advance global VLBI through international collaboration.

We invite applications for an Associate Professor position at the Mizusawa VLBI observatory to lead the future plan development. The successful candidate will collaborate with astronomy community to develop the future plan of radio interferometry including global VLBI and will actively promote these initiatives. Candidates must possess profound knowledge and experience in international collaboration of radio astronomy as well as track-record of astronomy research relevant to radio interferometry. The job description of the successful candidate is expected as follows, though details are subject to the candidate's experience and expertise:

1) future planning and R&D (approximately 65% FTE)

The successful candidate will serve as the primary liaison to broad astronomy communities engaged in future radio interferometry projects and will play a leading role in developing strategic plans for future radio astronomy including global VLBI. This will involve:

- Analyzing domestic and global trends in radio and broader astronomy
- Strengthening domestic and international collaborations
- Development of future plan and conducting R&D studies aligned with the plan
- Contributing to resource acquisition, taking into account the status of NAOJ and broader astronomical communities.

Additionally, the successful candidate will support the observatory's management, including the operation and enhancement of VLBI arrays operated by the Mizusawa VLBI Observatory, working closely with observatory staffs and researchers in the VLBI community.

2) Individual research (about 25% FTE)

The candidate will conduct cutting-edge research based on his/her own research interest by utilizing radio

interferometry.

3) Contribution to education and other committee works (approximately 10% FTE)

The candidate will also contribute to the broader mission of NAOJ through committee works and public outreach activities. Additionally, he/she will engage in graduate school education at SOKENDAI, delivering lectures and supervising graduate students.

(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 reasonably 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 reaches NAOJ's mandatory retirement age of 65.

Probation period: 6 months

6. Qualifications:

- (1) Minimum Educational Requirement: Ph.D. or equivalent; and
- (2) Other Requirement: To have achieved internationally recognized research or engineering results in the field of expertise, and also have high-level communication skill to promote large international collaboration.

7. Required Application Materials: (*To be prepared in English. Any other languages will not be accepted.)

- (1) A cover letter
- (2) A curriculum vitae
- (3) Publications list (Separate refereed and non-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 e-mail address of your current supervisor or line manager, and
- (7) Three reference letters. All reference letters must be prepared by faculty/staff with tenured positions. Reference letters from multiple countries are preferred. 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: 2025-06-20, 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.office.com/r/jNC11WXx7M>
- (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: mareki.honma_AT_nao.ac.jp (replace _AT_ with @),

Prof. Mareki Honma

Point of Contact for Mizusawa VLBI Observatory, NAOJ

Subject of e-mail: "Question on JD of Associate Professor of NAOJ Mizusawa VLBI Observatory"

(2) If you have any questions related to the job application system or other items, contact,

E-mail address: job02-associateprof_AT_nao.ac.jp (replace _AT_ with @)

Subject of e-mail: "Question on Associate Professor of NAOJ Mizusawa VLBI Observatory"

10. 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 (20days: to be prorated for the first year), Refreshment leave (3 days)

(3) Social Insurances:

MEXT Mutual Aid Association (health insurance), Employees' Pension Insurance, Employment Insurance, Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance

(4) Remuneration:

Salary: The amount of an annual salary shall be determined based on the school career and job experiences in accordance with the NINS regulations (NINS, or the National Institutes of Natural Sciences, is an executive institute that manages NAOJ). The payment will be made monthly in 12 equivalents.

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 Increase: 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).

11. Remarks:

- Candidates selected in the final shortlist may be interviewed by the selection committee either via the internet or face-to-face. The expense for the interview will not be covered by NAOJ.
- 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.
- Smoking is prohibited on the premises, excluding designated outdoor smoking areas.
- 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, child care, and/or family care, please indicate it in your curriculum vitae. We will consider it when assessing your performance.

For further information about NAOJ's efforts to achieve a gender-equal society, see

<https://www2.nao.ac.jp/~open-info/gender-equality/en/>

- 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.

12. Name of recruiter

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