

Job Announcement for an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Space and  
Astronautical Science, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

The Japan Aerospace Space Exploration Agency (JAXA) is seeking to recruit an assistant professor as described below. We widely call for recommendations and applications.

1. Title and Number of Position(s)

One Assistant Professor

2. Department

Department of Space Astronomy and Astrophysics, Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS)

3. Summary of Position (Duties and Required Abilities)

JAXA/ISAS is promoting SPICA (Space Infrared Telescope for Cosmology and Astrophysics), which is an astrophysics mission involving a large-aperture cryogenic telescope planned in collaboration with the European Space Agency as well as domestic and international institutes and researchers to lead space science in the 2020s. We hereby call for applicants for the position of assistant professor at ISAS. The successful applicant will have a strong intention to and the ability to promote SPICA based on having a clear vision with respect to future prospects in astronomy and astrophysics for the next decade.

SPICA, an infrared space observatory equipped with a large-aperture telescope that is actively cooled to below 8 K, is probing fundamental questions of modern astronomy and astrophysics such as how heavy elements, dust and organic material were produced in the history of the universe and how significant a role they played in the formation and evolution of galaxies and the formation of planets. Multi-wavelength research covering the entire electromagnetic spectrum from X-rays to radio waves will be conducted through to the 2020s to study subjects from extremely high-energy phenomena to extremely low-temperature interstellar matter. As part of this research, SPICA will make a unique and essential contribution by means of infrared wavelength observations that will be 100 times more sensitive than those of previous facilities. In particular, by observing dust and gas in the universe throughout the history of the universe, SPICA is

expected to amass essential knowledge how our universe has evolved to be so rich in the world as we see today, with a variety of planets, including our own Earth where life has developed.

Please refer to JAXA/ISAS's SPICA web page for details of the SPICA project<sup>1</sup>. It is JAXA/ISAS's responsibility to implement the Payload Module (PLM) system of SPICA. The development of one of SPICA's main science instruments, the SPICA Mid-Infrared Instrument (SMI), is being conducted by the SMI Consortium with the close collaboration of JAXA/ISAS and universities.

For this call for an assistant professor, we expect applications by researchers who will pursue the development of SPICA to achieve its science goals with strong motivation based on her/his vision with respect to future prospects for astronomy and astrophysics in the late 2020s. The core mission of the assistant professor will be: (i) the development of SMI, or (ii) the development of the PLM system. We expect applicants to have strong intentions and capabilities for the task, with their previous research field and experience not being a factor.

We ask that the assistant professor, as a JAXA academic staffer, collaborate with university researchers, understand the principles of inter-university research and the role of JAXA/ISAS, as well as take the initiative in participating in activities within JAXA so as to make contributions in research, development, and projects through her/his expertise. The assistant professor is also asked to participate in education programs for graduate students.

To fulfill the duties above, the successful candidate needs to satisfy, at minimum, the following conditions.

- Have an advanced academic record in astronomy and astrophysics and have a clear vision with respect to future prospects toward the late 2020s.
- Have experience in or potential capability for cryogenic instrumentation or

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<sup>1</sup> Space Infrared Telescope for Cosmology and Astrophysics

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.ir.isas.jaxa.jp/SPICA/SPICA\\_HP/](http://www.ir.isas.jaxa.jp/SPICA/SPICA_HP/)

instrumentation in astronomy and astrophysics from space or from the ground.

- Be capable of assisting to teach and direct graduate students.

#### 4. Terms and Conditions

(1) Salary will be determined under the provision of JAXA wage rules and regulations, taking into account ability and experience.

(2) Working days: Monday – Friday, except Japanese national holidays, year-end and New-Year holidays, paid vacation, summer vacation, celebration or condolence leave, maternity leave, child-care leave, care leave, nursing leave, volunteer activities, etc.

(3) Office hours: 9:30-17:45, in principle, with a recess from 12:15 to 13:00 (however, a discretionary labor system is applied).

(4) Overtime work: may be required (however, a discretionary labor system is applied, and working hours per day are regarded as 7.5 hours).

(5) Duty location: JAXA Sagamihara campus (ISAS), Kanagawa, Japan.

(6) Employment status: Full-time/Retirement age is 63.

(7) Lodgings: lodgings suitable for a family or a single occupant may be provided under the provision of JAXA in consideration of the nature of the work. (Lodging term is limited to 7 years.) Alternatively, an allowance for lodging shall be paid.

(8) Social insurances (health insurance, pension plan, etc.) will be provided in full.

#### 5. Eligibility

PhD degree is required.

#### 6. Commencement of Assignment

At the earliest possible date after selection. Some coordination might be needed according to JAXA's budget situation.

#### 7. Application Documents

(1) Curriculum vitae

(2) Research career

(3) List of research achievements

(4) Summary of previous research, especially those stating recognition for work in the fields mentioned above, and Outline of future research plan (including contribution to

projects referring the expected core missions described above, and ambitions for educational activities)

- (5) List of awarded research funds through competition (type of funds, amount, principal investigator or co-investigator)
- (6) Contact information of two referees (names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses for a direct inquiry from JAXA). If you are recommended by others, please provide two letters of recommendation.
- (7) Photocopies of major research papers (less than three published in refereed academic journals)

## 8. Submission

Submit the application through the following website

<https://isas-appli-form.jaxa.jp/forms1/1522379110>

When submitting the documents, please follow the instructions given on the website. All of the files to be uploaded shall be in pdf format. Note that documents (2) to (5) should be merged into one pdf file.

If the applicant is recommended by others, we will request recommender(s) to directly upload their letters of recommendation to the website. (This request will be automatically sent to the email addresses of recommender(s) specified by the applicant.) Application delivered in person or by mail shall not be accepted.

## 9. Application Deadline

Monday, July 2, 2018, 9:30 (JST).

Applies to both web input and all necessary files, including letters of recommendation for recommended applicants.

Please access the above website and check how to submit necessary documents for application (including letters of recommendation if the applicant is recommended by others) as soon as possible. If application is made too close to the deadline, it will be difficult for recommenders to submit a letter of recommendation. Please be careful with regard to this.

## 10. Contact at the Institute of Space and Astronautical Science, JAXA

Research Director of Department of Space Astronomy and Astrophysics:

Prof. Toru Yamada

Director

Tel: +81-50-3362-2463      E-mail: [yamada.toru@jaxa.jp](mailto:yamada.toru@jaxa.jp)

For inquiries regarding Application Submission in Section 8:

Management and Integration Department

Human Resources Section

Fax: +81-42-759-8440      E-mail: [ISAS-JINJI@ml.jaxa.jp](mailto:ISAS-JINJI@ml.jaxa.jp)

11. LEADER: The selection process will be performed in a manner consistent with the peer review process of LEADER. If the applicant is younger than 40 years old on April 1, 2019, he or she is expected to apply also to the Job Announcement for Leading Initiative for Excellent Young Researchers (LEADER) at the following website address.

[https://www.jspss.go.jp/j-le/koubo\\_kenkyu.html](https://www.jspss.go.jp/j-le/koubo_kenkyu.html)

#### 12. Other Remarks

Screening will be conducted by the Advisory Council for Research and Management of ISAS, JAXA. This job announcement comes into effect when there are three applicants or more. If there are fewer than three applications, the announcement will be made again. Traveling expenses necessary for the examination and selection shall be borne at the applicant's own expense. ISAS/JAXA actively welcomes female applicants.

#### <Handling of Personal Information>

The personal information provided to ISAS/JAXA will be used and handled solely for the selection purpose. ISAS/JAXA will discard all personal information of unsuccessful applicants after the selection.