



To learn more about current job opportunities visit our job board at <https://www.aura-astronomy.org/careers/>

To learn more about aura and its centers and observatories, visit <http://www.aura-astronomy.org>



Not only are AURA Centers great places to work, but we offer competitive salaries and comprehensive and family-friendly benefits.

Comprehensive Benefits:

- Medical, dental, prescription, and vision
- Vacation: Up to 24 days of paid vacation a year
- Sick Leave: 12 sick days a year (increases to max of 30 days per year).
- Paid Holidays: At least 10 holidays (regular and personal)
- Employee Voluntary Retirement Savings Plan
- Casual Work Environment
- Flexible Work Schedules
- Tuition Reimbursement and Prepayment Program
- Telecommuting Options Available
- Free Parking
- Flexible Spending Accounts
- Employee Assistance Program
- Life, Short-term Disability & Long-term Disability Insurance
- Employer-Funded Retirement Plan: 10% of annual salary



# Careers in Astronomy

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES FOR RESEARCH IN ASTRONOMY

Corporate offices: 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Suite 1475 • Washington, DC 20004 • (202) 483-2101

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES FOR RESEARCH IN ASTRONOMY



# About AURA

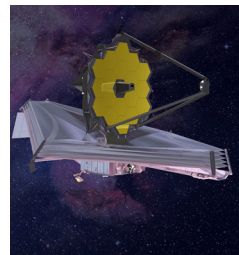
The Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) is a consortium of 47 US institutions and 3 international affiliates that operates world-class astronomical observatories in the US and Chile. AURA's role is to establish, nurture, and promote public observatories and facilities that advance innovative astronomical research. AURA carries out its role through its astronomical facilities funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

## Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI)



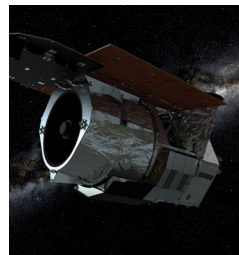
Hubble Space Telescope

STScI is a multi-mission operations center for NASA's flagship observatories and a world-class astronomical research center. STScI is responsible for the science program for the Hubble Space Telescope and for science and flight operations for NASA's next flagship, the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), set to launch in 2021.



James Webb Space Telescope

STScI has developed and executed the science program for the Hubble Space Telescope since its launch in 1990. Hubble continues to revolutionize astronomy and expand our knowledge of the Universe. More than 15,000 astronomers worldwide have used Hubble and published Hubble results.



Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope

JWST will maintain US leadership in space science and peer 100 times deeper into the universe than Hubble. STScI is also developing science operations for NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, that will have 100 times the field of view of Hubble. Looking forward, STScI is studying advanced space telescope concepts for future large missions in the 2030s and beyond, in a quest to answer the question: "Are we alone?"

## NSF's NOIRLab

NSF's National Optical-Infrared Astronomy Research Laboratory (NOIRLab) is the preeminent US national center for ground-based, nighttime optical and infrared astronomy. The mission of NOIRLab is to enable breakthrough discoveries in astrophysics by developing and operating state-of-the-art ground-based observatories and providing data products and services for a diverse and inclusive community.

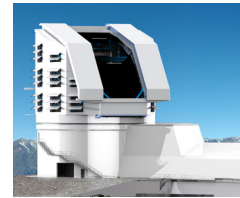
Through its five programs — Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory (CTIO), the Community Science and Data Center (CSDC), Gemini Observatory, Kitt Peak National Observatory (KPNO) and the Vera C. Rubin Observatory, once operational — NOIRLab serves as a focal point for community development of innovative scientific programs, the exchange of ideas, and creative development. The lab's infrastructure enables the astronomy community to advance humanity's understanding of the Universe by exploring significant areas of astrophysics, including dark energy and dark matter, galaxies and quasars, the Milky Way, exoplanets, and small bodies in our own Solar System.



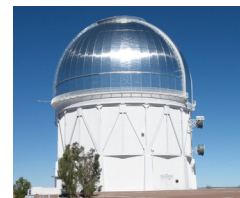
Gemini Observatory



Kitt Peak Observatory



Vera C. Rubin Observatory



Cerro Tololo Observatory

## NSF's National Solar Observatory (NSO)



Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope

The National Solar Observatory (NSO) advances knowledge of the Sun as the dominant external influence on Earth and as the local archetype of a typical star. NSO supports facilities that provide forefront observational opportunities for the solar research community, and leads construction of the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope. The Inouye Solar Telescope, a collaboration of 22 institutions, will be the largest and most advanced solar telescope in the world, with unprecedented abilities to view details of the Sun. Using adaptive optics technology and a 4-meter telescope, the Inouye Solar Telescope will explore physical processes that link the Sun to the Earth, and will set the stage to develop enhanced predictive capabilities of explosive solar events that drive geomagnetic storms.

NSO also operates the Synoptic Optical Long-term Investigations of the Sun (SOLIS) and the Global Oscillation Network Group (GONG). SOLIS observes the Sun over decades to understand the solar activity cycle, solar irradiance changes, and energy releases in the solar atmosphere. GONG provides continuous imaging of the Sun and its solar magnetic field, and has been identified as a crucial asset for space weather operational forecasting.

# Careers in Astronomy



*"I work with an amazing team and my manager is very supportive. We have good communication and I think that is key to having a successful work environment."*

## Stacey Sueoka National Solar Observatory

I am an Optical Systems Engineer with an emphasis in polarimetry with AURA and NSO's new observatory, the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope project in Hawai'i. I work with a special team whose role is to make sure the end-to-end polarimetry requirements are met. I attended the University of Arizona where I received my PhD in Optical Sciences in 2016 and my Bachelors in Physics in 2007 from Pacific University. I participated in a Hawaii based STEM internship program called Akamai in 2007. As an alumna of the program I attended a Maui workshop where I was first introduced to NSO and the Inouye Solar Telescope project in Hawaii.

## Prem Mishra Space Telescope Science Institute

Mishra currently serves as a consulting technologist who helps with the conception, construction, and implementation of the institute's Flexible Data Center. The project is much more than a new approach to computing and data storage: It sets the foundation for private cloud computing and is already inspiring staff to rethink how to access and process large data sets. Through the Flexible Data Center, Mishra and the team helped redesign the institute's virtual network architecture to provide increased security and computing power. This required them to replace hardware, implement software-defined networking, design the network architecture, and audit and extensively test it from end to end.



*"We used to run small sets of work in silos, it wasted a lot of computing power. Now, the requests can take less than a day."*

## Mariah Birchard NOIRLab/Gemini Observatory

I work as an Electronics Engineer at Gemini South. I received my MS in Engineering Physics with a concentration in Laboratory Automation from Appalachian State University, NC. I graduated in 2016 and immediately began my career at Gemini South Observatory. Gemini has been a great place to grow my engineering skill set. While at Gemini, I've had the opportunity to maintain telescope subsystems, commission new instrumentation and manage projects to replace obsolete electronics.



*"My goals align with the Gemini mission of providing the technology to advance our knowledge of the universe; as such, I am proud to be a part of the Gemini team!"*