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

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Careers in Astronomy

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES FOR RESEARCH IN ASTRONOMY

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ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES FOR RESEARCH IN ASTRONOMY

The Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) is a consortium of 46 US institutions and 4 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 and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

About AURA



Gemini Observatory

The Gemini Observatory consists of twin 8.1-meter diameter optical/infrared telescopes located on two of the best observing sites on the planet. From their locations on mountains in Hawai'i and Chile, Gemini Observatory's telescopes can collectively access the entire sky.



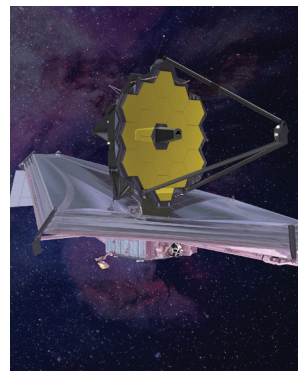
National Solar Observatory (NSO)

NSO advances knowledge of the Sun as the dominant 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 (DKIST) on Maui in Hawaii, to be completed in 2020.



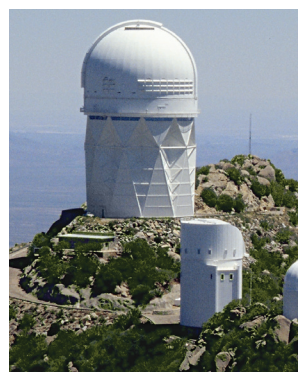
Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST)

Currently under construction in Chile, LSST will change the nature of astronomy as the next generation telescope. LSST will survey the visible sky every 3 nights for 10 years. The project will drive advances in big data science and computing.



Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI)

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.



National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO)

NOAO operates optical-infrared telescopes for night-time astronomy. These telescopes are located on Kitt Peak, Arizona and Cerro Tololo, Chile and are used by approximately one thousand professional astronomers and students each year.

AURA's Centers enable the next decade of astronomical discoveries through world-class facilities and science

Careers in Astronomy



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 (DKIST) 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 DKIST project in Hawaii.

"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."

Jason Kalirai Space Telescope Science Institute

I work as STScI's Multi-Mission Project Scientist. I grew up and studied in Canada, but decided to leave in 2004 to pursue a postdoctoral fellowship in the USA. In 2005, I was fortunate enough to be awarded a Hubble Fellowship. One of the perks of the fellowship is that it allowed me to visit STScI once a year for the annual Hubble Fellowship Symposium. I fell in love with the Institute. I work closely with STScI and AURA leadership to develop new initiatives that maximize the science of our flagship space telescopes, including the Hubble Space Telescope, the James Webb Space Telescope, and the Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope. To do this, I interface with NASA and the broad scientific community to ensure that the capabilities and scientific discovery potential of these missions is understood by all of our stakeholders.



"I work with a multi-disciplinary and diverse team to help enable bold future missions that will transform our understanding of the Universe."



Vanessa Montes Gemini Observatory

My work is mainly focused in one of Gemini's most complex instruments: GeMS (Gemini Multi-Conjugate Adaptive Optics System). In my seven years at Gemini I have had the opportunity not only to explore the electronics engineering support aspect for the instrument, but also, to participate as Systems Engineer and Project Manager for several projects associated to GeMS. In addition to this I am the GeMS Instrument Manager, which means, I am responsible for the instrument from the engineering point of view. Along with the Instrument Scientist, we make sure that the system is kept operational, and meets the science community's expectations.

"I feel grateful and proud of my career at Gemini. I have grown a lot since I started eight years ago when I completed my first summer internship here."