



125 YEARS | 1894 - 2019

1400 West Mars Hill Rd | Flagstaff, Arizona 86001-4499 | USA

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## POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

### **METEOR CAMERA RESEARCH ASSISTANT**

Lowell Observatory Research Assistants perform research in areas in support of astronomers. This position will be supervised by astronomer Nick Moskovitz. The astronomer will ensure the Research Assistant makes adequate progress, but the ability to independently solve problems will be required. This position is supported by an active NSF grant that has been awarded through 2025.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

This work will be in support of an ongoing project that involves the installation and operation of video camera stations designed for observing meteors. The research assistant will contribute to some combination of the following tasks:

- Identification of sites throughout Arizona for the installation of new stations.
- Definition of hardware requirements and design of new camera stations.
- Coordination of hardware purchase, assembly, and lab testing of new stations.
- Installation of camera stations at off-campus locations.
- Supporting the operation and maintenance of camera stations.
- Data validation and on-sky testing of cameras.
- Coordinating delivery of data products to project team members.
- Development of software to curate and manage data products.
- Processing and analysis of meteor data from the camera systems.

#### QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

The Research Assistant should have experience in the use and programming of computers. Experience with Linux operating systems and software is strongly desired. Familiarity with the Python programming language is desirable.

Computer and public speaking skills sufficient to assemble and deliver a research presentation to a professional audience are expected.

Regular meetings with project team members are expected, but in general the Assistant will be encouraged to work independently. They must be able to prioritize tasks, set schedules, troubleshoot problems, and complete complex tasks on time and within deadlines.

This is expected to be a half time position; however, the Assistant will have flexibility in deciding the specific scheduling of hours in any given week. Some preference will be given to applicants interested in a multi-year commitment to this project. Applicants should specify in their cover letter why they are interested in this position and how it may fit with their long-term career plans.

The Research Assistant is expected to reflect the professional and collegial environment the Observatory strives to maintain.

## EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

Minimum requirement for this position is current enrollment in an undergraduate program of study in physics, astronomy, planetary science, computer science, engineering, or other related areas. Alternatively, previous work experience in related areas may be sufficient.

## WORKING CONDITIONS

Working at a computer and sitting for extended periods. Moving throughout the campus, on sometimes uneven terrain and in low light. Climbing ladders to install and access cameras located on rooftops and other elevated locations. Working outdoors at night to setup camera stations.

Driving to distant sites for camera installation and maintenance. Candidate must have or be able to obtain a valid AZ Driver's license and have an excellent driving record. A Motor Vehicle department background check will be performed annually.

<b>Compensation:</b>	Starting at \$15/hour
<b>Status:</b>	Part Time, Temporary
<b>Term:</b>	1 year with possibility of annual renewal
<b>Hours:</b>	Approximately 20 hours/week
<b>FLSA Classification:</b>	Non-Exempt
<b>Benefit Eligible:</b>	Limited Part Time Benefits*
<b>Location:</b>	Flagstaff, Lowell Observatory's Mars Hill Campus

### To Apply:

Please send the following documents to [humanresources@lowell.edu](mailto:humanresources@lowell.edu):

- Lowell Short Form Application (<http://lowell.edu/about/employment>)
- Letter of interest addressing your qualifications and interest in this position
- CV
- Phone numbers and e-mail addresses of three professional references

**Review of applications will begin on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Position open until filled.**

\*Part Time employees will receive sick time accrual according to AZ state law. After 6 months of employment, part time employees are eligible to participate in a 5% match if they contribute 5% or more to their retirement plan, as well as 2 paid personal days per year.

### **Employment is subject to passing a background check**

Lowell Observatory is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer and provides equal employment opportunity to all persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, genetic information, disability, veteran status, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital and family status.

Lowell Observatory provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. This nonsmoking campus is at an elevation of 7,000 ft/2100m. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the Human Resources office for assistance.