



125 YEARS | 1894 - 2019

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## POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

### **POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATE IN NEAR-EARTH OBJECT STUDIES**

Applications are invited for a postdoctoral position at Lowell Observatory to work on the physical characterization of near-Earth objects. This position will be supervised by Dr. Nicholas Moskovitz.

The initial appointment is for one year with the possibility of annual extensions in the case of satisfactory performance. The position is expected to be split with 80% of the time dedicated to the main program and 20% for any other research of the postdoc's choosing. The start date is negotiable. This position is funded by active NASA grants and comes with a competitive salary with full benefits. Funding is available for computer resources, attending conferences, publication charges, and observing runs. Postdocs at the Observatory have access to our 4.3m Lowell Discovery Telescope (LDT) as well as several 1-m class telescopes. Lowell offers numerous opportunities for involvement in education and public outreach.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

The postdoctoral associate will work in collaboration with Dr. Moskovitz and other project team members on the ongoing Mission Accessible Near-Earth Object Survey (MANOS). This survey is working to achieve comprehensive characterization for newly discovered NEOs using astrometric, photometric, and spectroscopic techniques. Observations will be conducted at a range of facilities including Gemini North and South, the SOAR 4m, Lowell's 4.3m LDT, and NASA's IRTF. In addition, the MANOS team is working to develop new software tools that will facilitate rapid target selection, observation, and data dissemination.

The postdoc will contribute to some combination of the following tasks:

- Target management.
- Conducting regular telescopic observations (approximately 1 night per month), either remotely or on site.
- Managing observations at queue-mode facilities.
- Astrometric, photometric, and/or spectroscopic data reduction and analysis.
- Software development in support of target selection, observations, and/or data curation.
- Leading publications relevant to this work.

### QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

The postdoctoral associate should have experience with observations and analysis of data specific to minor planets.

Strong programming skills are highly desired. Experience with the Python programming language is preferred.

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

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

Applicants should specify in their research statement why they are interested in this position.

## EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

A PhD in physics, astronomy, planetary science, or a closely related field is required by the start date.

## WORKING CONDITIONS

Working at a computer and sitting for extended periods. Driving to remote telescope sites to conduct nighttime observations. The 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 Type:</b>	Salary
<b>FLSA Classification:</b>	Exempt
<b>Status:</b>	Full time, regular
<b>Term:</b>	1 year with possibility of annual renewal
<b>Benefit Eligible:</b>	Yes*
<b>Location:</b>	Flagstaff, Lowell Observatory's Mars Hill Campus

### To Apply:

Please send a *single pdf document* to [humanresources@lowell.edu](mailto:humanresources@lowell.edu) that contains the following:

- Lowell Short Form Application (<http://lowell.edu/about/employment>)
- A 1-page cover letter.
- CV
- A statement of research accomplishments and future research plans. *Candidates should explicitly describe how their experience and interests are relevant to this position.* (3 pages)
- Phone numbers and e-mail addresses of three professional references

### Review of applications will begin on January 15, 2021.

\*Benefits Overview: In addition to 10 scheduled paid holidays, Lowell Observatory offers a Flexible Paid Time Off policy for all full-time, benefit eligible employees which allows you to determine how much time you need to rest and enjoy yourself outside of work. The cost of premiums for medical, life & long term disability insurances for benefit eligible employees is 100% paid by the company, and includes a contribution to either an H.S.A or HRA account for first dollar medical expenses.

### Employment is subject to passing a background check

Lowell Observatory is proud to be an equal opportunity workplace and is an affirmative action employer. We are committed to equal employment opportunity regardless of race, color, ancestry, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, citizenship, marital status, disability, gender identity or Veteran status. Lowell Observatory has always been, and always will be, committed to diversity and inclusion. We seek individuals from all backgrounds to join our teams, and we encourage our employees to bring their authentic, original, and best selves to work.

Lowell Observatory sits at the base of mountains sacred to tribes throughout the region. We honor their past, present, and future generations, who have lived here for millennia and will forever call this place home.

Lowell Observatory is committed to providing access, and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. Our non-smoking campus is at an elevation of 7,200ft/2200m. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the Human Resources office for assistance. [humanresources@lowell.edu](mailto:humanresources@lowell.edu)