



1400 W Mars Hill Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86001-4499 | USA
lowell.edu | 928.774.3358

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATE IN Young Binary Star & Circumstellar Disk Research

Applications are invited for a postdoctoral position at Lowell Observatory to conduct research on young binary star formation, circumstellar disk evolution, and potential for planet formation. The postdoctoral scholar will be supervised by Dr. Lisa Prato.

The successful candidate will work with Dr. Prato on the characterization of the stellar and circumstellar properties of the individual stars in a sample of 100 close young binaries, located in nearby star forming regions, in order to better understand the formation and evolution of both the binaries themselves and their circumstellar disks. In particular, while there is evidence for a dearth of planet formation in close binary systems, some exoplanets are still detected around the individual stars in binaries with separations of only a few to tens of astronomical units. The primary goals of this project are to gain insight into the system properties, stellar, disk, and orbital, that control and modulate the potential for planet formation and to better understand the disk dissipation process. The postdoctoral scholar will analyze a rich data set already in hand, obtain new observations as necessary, develop models and schema for disk evolution and planet formation in close binaries, and supplement the analysis with publicly available data and results. The position is divided between 80% of the time dedicated to the main young binary star program and 20% for any research of the successful candidate's choosing. Participation in Dr. Prato's NSF Broader Impact educational program is welcome but not required. Opportunities for mentoring interns and undergraduate students are also available.

The initial appointment is for two years, renewable for a third year contingent upon satisfactory progress demonstrated by publications, presentations, and successful data analyses. This position is funded by an active grant and comes with a competitive salary and full benefits. Funding is available for computer resources, travel to conferences and workshops, publication charges, and observing runs. Postdocs at the Observatory have access to Lowell's 4.3-m Discovery Telescope and a number of 1-m class telescopes. Lowell offers opportunities for participation in education and public outreach. Lowell Observatory is committed to diversity and inclusion in its workforce; we particularly encourage applications from under-represented groups.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

A Ph.D. in Physics, Astrophysics, Astronomy, or closely related field by the start date of the appointment. Candidates with a background in young star astrophysics and circumstellar disk evolution are strongly encouraged to apply.

The successful candidate must be able to work independently, explore new directions and initiatives, and develop innovative ideas and approaches. There is also the expectation that the postdoctoral scholar will be an engaged team player, communicate effectively and regularly, collaborate on grant and observing time proposals, set schedules, prioritize, and complete complex tasks within deadlines. Participation in weekly team meetings is expected.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Conduct original and novel research on young binary stars and their circumstellar disks.
- Attend regular meetings and communicate effectively with team members.
- Organize, reduce, assemble, and analyze astrophysical data in hand or publicly available.

- Apply for new or ancillary observations at available observational facilities as needed.
- Lead publications relevant to this research.
- Present findings at scientific meetings.
- Behave in an ethical, professional, and collegial manner consistent with the environment that the astronomical community and the Observatory strive to maintain.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Driving to remote telescope sites to conduct nighttime observations. Candidates 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.

FLSA Classification:	Salary, Exempt
Status:	Full time, Temporary
Term:	2 years with possibility of renewal for 3rd year
Benefit Eligible:	Yes*
Location:	Flagstaff, Lowell Observatory's Mars Hill Campus

To Apply:

Please send a *single pdf document* to sciencejobs@lowell.edu that includes the following:

- Subject line: Young Binary Star & Circumstellar Disk Postdoctoral Associate
- Lowell Short Form Application (<https://lowell.edu/about/career-opportunities/>)
- 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)
- The names and email addresses of three individuals who have agreed to send reference letters by December 15th 2022 to sciencejobs@lowell.edu. Candidates should request the reference letters themselves.

Review of applications will begin on December 15, 2022 for a (negotiable) start-date in Summer 2023.

*Benefits Overview: In addition to 11 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. Paid time off also includes paid Parental and FMLA leaves. 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. A portion of dependent medical insurance is paid by the company. Up to a 5% match on retirement contributions after 6 months of employment and funds in lifestyle spending account provided by the observatory.

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, and the LDT is 40 miles south of Flagstaff at an elevation of 7,800 ft/2370m. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the Human Resources office for assistance.