POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

OUTER SOLAR SYSTEM COMPOSITIONS RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Lowell Observatory Research Assistants perform research in support of Lowell scientists. This position will be supervised by Dr. Will Grundy, who will also act as Co-Chair of the Research Assistant’s PhD thesis committee.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The research assistant will work in collaboration with Dr. Grundy on scientific research projects involving:

- Laboratory studies of outer solar system materials.
- Analysis of datasets on outer solar system bodies.
- Modeling of processes affecting outer solar system bodies.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

The Research Assistant is expected to be enrolled in a PhD program. Most of their work with Dr. Grundy is expected to contribute toward the content of their PhD thesis. The Research Assistant is expected to work independently on scientific projects in close coordination with Dr. Grundy. They must be able to prioritize objectives and tasks, set schedules, and complete agreed-upon research tasks within deadlines.

The position is expected to be a part time temporary position lasting approximately for the duration of calendar year 2024. The Research Assistant will have flexibility in deciding the scheduling of hours and tasks in any given week.

Applicants should describe in their cover letter relevant prior experience. Experience is sought leading authorship of peer-reviewed scientific journal articles and presenting results at scientific conferences. The applicant should also have experience working with closed-cycle helium refrigerators, temperature controllers, ultra-high vacuum systems, quadrupole mass spectrometers, Raman spectrometers, ion and capacitance manometer pressure gauges, Linux and Windows computer systems, and should be proficient in the Python programming language. Research experience with thermodynamics of solid-liquid-vapor phase equilibria in mixtures is highly desired. Good understanding of laboratory safety procedures for high pressure gas cylinders and regulators is required.

The Research Assistant will be expected to reflect the professional and collegial environment that the Observatory and the research group strive to maintain.

EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

Minimum requirements for this position are (1) current enrollment in a PhD program of study in physics, astronomy, planetary science, or other related areas, and (2) successful completion of all required course work and written and oral examinations other than the final thesis defense.
The Research Assistant will work in a laboratory setting and at a computer, potentially sitting for extended periods of time. It will be necessary to move through the Flagstaff campus at 7,000’ elevation, sometimes on uneven terrain. Occasional out of town travel may be needed to present results at scientific meetings. Some aspects of the job may involve the operation of small machinery or equipment.

**Status:** Part-Time/Temporary

**Term:** Calendar year 2024

**Compensation:** $30-$32/hour

**Hours:** 20-40 per week (averaging 29 hours per week or less)

**FLSA Classification:** Non-Exempt

**Benefit Eligible:** Limited Part Time Benefits*

**Location:** Flagstaff, Lowell Observatory’s Mars Hill Campus and Northern Arizona University

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**To Apply:** Please send the following documents to jobs@lowell.edu

- Short Form Application (www.lowell.edu/careers)
- CV
- Letter of interest describing your qualifications
- Phone numbers and e-mail addresses of three professional references

**The deadline to apply is December 14th 2023.**

*Part Time: 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 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 reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the Human Resources office for assistance.

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*Version Dec 2023/HR*