# NAOJ Invitational Programs for International Researchers and Students

National Astronomical Observatory of Japan

as of November 2026

| | NAOJ Fellowship | Project Research Fellowship | International Visiting Scholars | NAOJ Overseas Internship | Sabbatical Researchers | EACOA Fellowship | JSPS International Fellowships | Doctoral Course at Sokendai |
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| **Outline** | The NAOJ Fellowship program provides a full-time position for independent, highly qualified young researchers of any nationality who wish to explore the cutting-edge frontiers in astronomy and become global leaders in their new fields. | The Project Research Fellowship program provides a full-time position for excellent young researchers of any nationality. Project Research Fellows are recruited separately through three different recruitment categories ("General"; "Project/Center"; and "External Funding").<br><br>Project Research Fellows have a commitment to spend a certain amount of time specified by their categories or funding programs for engaging in the duties assigned by their projects, but can use the rest of the time to pursue their own research interests. | The International Visiting Scholars program provides a full-time position for researchers who are affiliated to overseas research and educational institutes in astronomy and related fields to engage in joint research projects as Visiting Professors, Visiting Associate Professors, or Visiting Research Fellows at NAOJ.<br><br>International Visiting Scholars are expected to promote research as well as education and training for young researchers. | The NAOJ Internship program is intended for international graduate students who belong to and study astronomy or related fields at overseas universities. Under this program, students gain an opportunity to engage in research activities while receiving education and training at NAOJ. | The Sabbatical Researchers program is intended for researchers who are currently affiliated with an academic institute, and who are on sabbatical leave for engaging in an autonomous research project at NAOJ. | The EACOA Fellowship is a scholarship program established by the East Asia Core Observatories Association (EACOA), which is comprised of the following four East Asian institutes including NAOJ:<br><br>EACOA member institutes:<br>National Observatory of Japan (NAOJ), National Astronomical Observatories of China (NAOC), Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute (KASI), and Academia Sinica Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics (ASIAA) of Taiwan.<br><br>This program aims to promote collaborative astronomical research in the East Asian region by offering support to outstanding young researchers of any nationality who wish to conduct research activities at the EACOA member institutes. | The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) offers fellowship programs that provide overseas researchers who have an excellent record of research achievements with an opportunity to conduct collaborative research, discussions, and opinion exchanges with researchers in Japan. NAOJ accepts international researchers enrolled in these programs.<br><br>JSPS's invitation programs come in two categories: "Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan" for young researchers and "Invitational Fellowships for Research in Japan" for mid-career to professor-level researchers.<br><br>For details, please refer to the below listed JSPS websites. | NAOJ provides education and research guidance for graduate students, and welcomes international students as the host institute of the Astronomical Science Program of the Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies at SOKENDAI.<br><br>For details, please refer to the below listed Sokendai websites. |
| **Duration** | 5 years | 3 years for "General" and "Project/Center" fellows. For "External Funding", varies depending on the programs to which the fellow belongs. Depending on their categories, it may be extended for up to another 2 years subject to an end-term review. | 1 month to 1 year (The entire period of stay must be within a single fiscal year - April to March.)<br><br>(In certain circumstances, individuals may choose to apply for a "non-employee position" of the International Visiting Scholars program. In this case, their visiting period is limited between 1 month and 90 days within a single fiscal year - April to March.) | Up to 1 year | 1 month to 1 year | 3 years subject to annual review, and renewable for an additional 2 years subject to availability of EACOA funds and approval by EACOA. EACOA fellows are required to work in at least two EACOA member institutes during their 3-year fellowship period (at least one year at each institute). | Varies among the programs | Five-year Doctoral Program<br>or<br>Three-year Doctoral Program<br><br>(Admissions are held twice a year - in April and October.) |
| **Number of Open Positions per year** | Several | "General": two (2)<br>"Project/Center": several<br>"External Funding": several | Varies | Varies | Varies | One (1) or two (2) | Varies among the programs | Varies |
| **Eligibility** | Applicants must hold, or expect to hold a PhD degree in astronomy or related fields by the starting date of the fellowship and it is preferable that the applicant earned the degree within about eight years. . | Applicants must hold, or expect to hold a PhD degree in astronomy or related fields by the starting date of the fellowship. | Applicants must have a current affiliation with an overseas research and educational institute specializing in astronomy and/or related fields, and also must be under 71 years of age as of April 1st of the year of the visiting peiod. (No age limit for non-employee positions) | The applicant must be a currently enrolled graduate student who is pursuing a degree in astronomy or related fields at an overseas university or accredited academic institution. | Applicants must have a current affiliation with an overseas or domestic research and/or academic institution. | Applicants must hold a PhD degree in astronomy or related fields, and must be within the first 5 years of obtaining the PhD degree at the time of the starting date of the fellowship. | Varies among the programs | For the Five-year Doctoral Program: applicants must hold a degree equivalent to a Bachelor's degree or expect to hold the same by the month preceding the month of enrollment.<br><br>For the Three-year Doctoral Program: applicants must hold a Master's degree or a degree equivalent to a professional degree, or expect to hold the same by the month preceding the month of enrollment. |
| **Salary/Funds/ Allowances** | The NAOJ Fellow will receive the following salary and funds based on a pay scale for Project Assistant Professors employed under the annual salary system.<br>- Annualy salary: 6,600,000 JPY<br>- Annual research funds: 1,000,000 JPY<br><br>Travel and relocation costs to NAOJ will be covered (subject to the travel regulations of NAOJ/NINS). | The Project Research Fellow will receive the following salary and funds based on a pay scale for Project Researcher employed under the annual salary system.<br>- Annual salary: 4,200,000 JPY<br>- Annual research funds: 500,000 JPY for "General" and "Project/Center" fellows. For "External Funding", varies depending on the programs to which the fellow belongs.<br><br>Travel and relocation costs to NAOJ will be covered (subject to the travel regulations of NAOJ/NINS). | The International Visiting Scholar will be entitled to receive salary in addition to travel expenses for one round-trip.<br><br>(Scholars visiting under the non-employee position are provided with a round-trip airfare and accommodation allowance but will not receive any salary.) | This program comes in two types: paid or unpaid. Paid Interns will be employed by NAOJ as a research assistant and will receive a salary (on an hourly basis) for engaging in the duties assigned by NAOJ.<br><br>Specific terms and conditions of the internship such as the status of employment and payment of travel expenses should be determined through consultation with the NAOJ host researcher. | In principle, Sabbatical Researchers are not entitled to be paid any salary or accommodation/travel expenses. | The EACOA Fellow will receive the following salary and funds.<br><br>Monthly allowance: 5,000 USD<br>Research fund: 20,000 USD/year (exact amount may vary depending on the conditions and availability of the research funds of the host institute)<br>Relocation expenses: reimbursed based on the actual cost, with a maximum limit of 4,000 USD | Varies among the programs | Several scholarship programs are available for successful candidates of the Sokendai international students accepted to NAOJ. |
| **Call for Applications** | Once a year (usually June - July) | "General": once a year (usually early September to early October)<br>"Project/Center": as-needed basis<br>"External Funding": as-needed basis | Once a year (usually late August to late September)<br><br>An application must be made by a host researcher at NAOJ. | Applications are accepted all year round, but must be submitted at least 3 months prior to the starting date.<br><br>Applications must be made by both the host researcher at NAOJ and the candidate student. | Applications accepted all year-round<br><br>Applications must be prepared by the applicant and submitted through the Director of the hosting project, center or division at NAOJ. | Once a year (usually August to mid-November) | Varies among the programs | Varies depending on the April and October admissions and the Five-year and Three-year Doctoral Programs. |
| **URL** | https://www.nao.ac.jp/en/careers/jobs-fellow.html | https://www.nao.ac.jp/en/careers/jobs-project-1.html<br><br>https://www.nao.ac.jp/en/careers/jobs-project-2.html<br><br>https://www.nao.ac.jp/en/careers/jobs-project-3.html | N/A | N/A | N/A | https://www.eacoa.net/fellowship.php | https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-inv_researchers/index.html<br><br>https://www.jsps.go.jp/file/storage/e-inv/pamphlet/fellowship_2026_EN.pdf | https://guas-astronomy.jp/eng/index.html<br><br>https://www.soken.ac.jp/en/ |
| **Remarks** | NAOJ Fellows will become a member of the NAOJ project to which their host researcher belongs. However, this affiliation is made only for purposes of administrative convenience, and is not meant to be associated with imposing any functional duties to the NAOJ Fellow. NAOJ Fellows are free to focus on their independent research/development plans. | Project Research Fellows will become a member of the NAOJ project to which their host researcher belong. They are expected to spend a certain amount of time specified by their categories or funding programs for engaging in the duties assigned by their projects, but can use the rest of the time to pursue their own research interests. | For details, contact a NAOJ staff member with whom you have already performed a joint project. If you have no contact with a NAOJ staff, refer to the following lists and contact a member in the area of your interest.<br><br>https://www2.nao.ac.jp/~open-info/reslist/index.html<br><br>https://guas-astronomy.jp/eng/Supervisors/index.html | This position is not available at the Chile and Hawaii branches. For details, contact a NAOJ staff member with whom you have already performed a joint project. If you have no contact with a NAOJ staff, refer to the following lists and contact a member in the area of your interest.<br><br>https://www2.nao.ac.jp/~open-info/reslist/index.html<br><br>https://guas-astronomy.jp/eng/Supervisors/index.html | For details, contact a NAOJ staff member with whom you have already performed a joint project. If you have no contact with a NAOJ staff, refer to the following lists and contact a member in the area of your interest.<br><br>https://www2.nao.ac.jp/~open-info/reslist/index.html<br><br>https://guas-astronomy.jp/eng/Supervisors/index.html | Selected candidates must spend at least one year each in two or more of the four EACOA member institutes (NAOJ, NAOC (/PMO/SHAO), KASI, and ASIAA) . | | |

**For Current Job Vacancies Information: https://www.nao.ac.jp/en/about-naoj/employment/job-vacancy.html**