Careers at Astronomical Observatories

UKIRT
The world’s largest telescope dedicated solely to infrared astronomy, the 3.8-meter (12.5-foot) UK Infrared Telescope (UKIRT) is operated by the Joint Astronomy Centre on behalf of the UK Science and Technology Facilities Council.

JAC
The Joint Astronomy Centre (JAC) operates two telescopes on Mauna Kea on the Big Island of Hawai‘i: The United Kingdom Infrared Telescope (UKIRT) and the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (JCMT). A finance officer handles assets, and keeps track of paperwork. An electronic technician installs cables at the telescope. The telescopes on Mauna Kea. The engineering crew heads towards JCMT. An electronics engineer is preparing a mirror/telescope for operation on the JCMT. The telescopes on Mauna Kea.

Head of Administration
Education: Degree in Human Resources or Business Administration and at least 15 years of experience with management.
Skills: Ability to deal with a variety of people, ability to empathize with others, able to work with spreadsheets and databases, effective communication and writing skills.

Assistant Finance Officer
Education: Associate of Arts in Accounting and experience in bookkeeping, subject to change. Skills desired: Strong communication skills, be organized.

Human Resources Manager
Education: Associate in Human Resources, 10 years recommended.
Skills: Management, organizational skills, verbal and written communication skills.

Assistant Director UKIRT
Education: Ph.D. in Astronomy/Physics.
Skills: Scientific research, general computer skills, knowledge of UNIX and data reduction packages, superior math and writing ability, decision making, supervisory skills and teamwork.

Assistant Director JAC
Education: Ph.D. in Astronomy and many years of professional experience.
Skills: Administrative, leadership, scientific, and technical skills.

Director of the JAC
The Director of the JAC presents results at a scientific meeting.

Chief Engineer
Education: Ph.D. in Engineering.
Skills: Superior math and physics ability, supervising skills and teamwork, self motivation.

Astronomer
Education: PhD in Astronomy, and many years of professional experience.
Skills: Scientific research, general computer skills, knowledge of UNIX and data reduction packages, math and writing skills.

Computer Systems Administrator
Skills: Knowledge of different operating systems and programming.

Instrument Programmer
Skills: Creativity, flexibility, patience, and persistence, advanced computer skills.

Scientific Programmer
Skills: Software programming in various languages.

Mechanical Technician/Engineer
Skills: Fabrication, machine shop, repairs, welding engineer, computer-aided design, project management, communication.

Engineering/Planning Associate
Education: Associate in Secretarial Science or Office Technology.
Skills: Superior math and physics ability, supervising skills and teamwork, good communication and judgment.

Instrument Programmer
Skills: Ability to deal with a variety of people, ability to empathize with others, able to work with spreadsheets and databases, effective communication and writing skills.

Head of Administration
Education: Associate of Arts in Accounting and experience in bookkeeping, subject to change. Skills desired: Strong communication skills, be organized.

Assistant Finance Officer
Education: Associate of Arts in Accounting and experience in bookkeeping, subject to change. Skills desired: Strong communication skills, be organized.

Human Resources Manager
Education: Associate in Human Resources, 10 years recommended.
Skills: Management, organizational skills, verbal and written communication skills.

Assistant Director UKIRT
Education: Ph.D. in Astronomy/Physics.
Skills: Scientific research, general computer skills, knowledge of UNIX and data reduction packages, superior math and writing ability, decision making, supervisory skills and teamwork.

Assistant Director JAC
Education: Ph.D. in Astronomy and many years of professional experience.
Skills: Administrative, leadership, scientific, and technical skills.

Director of the JAC
The Director of the JAC presents results at a scientific meeting.

Chief Engineer
Education: Ph.D. in Engineering.
Skills: Superior math and physics ability, supervising skills and teamwork, self motivation.

Astronomer
Education: PhD in Astronomy, and many years of professional experience.
Skills: Scientific research, general computer skills, knowledge of UNIX and data reduction packages, math and writing skills.

Computer Systems Administrator
Skills: Knowledge of different operating systems and programming.

Instrument Programmer
Skills: Creativity, flexibility, patience, and persistence, advanced computer skills.

Scientific Programmer
Skills: Software programming in various languages.

Mechanical Technician/Engineer
Skills: Fabrication, machine shop, repairs, welding engineer, computer-aided design, project management, communication.

Engineering/Planning Associate
Education: Associate in Secretarial Science or Office Technology.
Skills: Superior math and physics ability, supervising skills and teamwork, good communication and judgment.

Electronic/Electrical Technician
Education: Associate in Electronics.
Skills: Decision making, good teamwork, soldering, and troubleshooting.

The telescope. The telescopes on Mauna Kea.

JCMT
The James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (JCMT) is the world’s largest single-dish telescope, the 15-meter (50-foot) telescope. It is operated by the Joint Astronomy Centre, on behalf of the UK Science and Technology Facilities Council, the Canadian National Research Council, and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research.

Associate Director JCMT
Education: Ph.D. in Astronomy/Physics.
Skills: Scientific research, general computer skills, knowledge of UNIX and data reduction packages, superior math and writing ability, decision making, supervisory skills and teamwork, leadership and management.