

Observatory Support Scientist (Boston University)

Applications are invited for a position in support of Boston University interests at Lowell Observatory (LO). The successful applicant will be stationed at LO in Flagstaff, AZ. The main duties are to help maintain Boston University instruments at LO telescopes, update and maintain software for operating these instruments, provide logistics support to visiting Boston University researchers, and act as a partial liaison between Boston University staff and researchers and their LO counterparts. The successful applicant may also be involved in scientific collaborations within and/or outside of Boston University. Desired qualifications include experience in working with astronomical instruments, a high degree of competence in the use of programming languages, and strong oral, written, and interpersonal skills. Minimum qualifications include a bachelor's degree in astronomy, physics, or a related field, plus 3-5 years of closely related work experience or higher education.

Since 1998, Boston University and Lowell Observatory have jointly operated the 72-inch Perkins telescope, located on Anderson Mesa, near Flagstaff, AZ. Members of Boston University's Institute for Astrophysical Research (IAR) have built two instruments for the Perkins telescope: PRISM, which provides optical imaging, polarimetry, and spectroscopy; and Mimir, which provides near-infrared imaging, polarimetry, and spectroscopy. Boston University is also a partner in the 4.3 m Discovery Channel Telescope (DCT), which saw first light in 2012. There are currently no Boston University-built instruments on the DCT, but such instruments are planned for the future. The Support Scientist will play active roles in the maintenance and operation of Boston University instruments on the Perkins telescope and the DCT.

Candidates should submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and the names of three people who can provide letters of reference on behalf of the candidate to Ms. Erin Reynolds, ereynold@bu.edu. Applications will be reviewed as they are received and the position will commence as soon as possible.

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