

**Joint Macquarie University (MQ) / Australian Astronomical Observatory (AAO)
Lecturer in Astronomy and Astrophysics (Level B or C)**

(4 years fixed-term, with the possibility of extension subject to funding)

The MQ astronomy group's research outputs and postgraduate student numbers have undergone rapid expansion over the last 5 years in particular, culminating in 2011 in the creation of a research centre in Astronomy, Astrophysics and Astrophotonics (MQ AAastro refer www.astronomy.mq.edu). This new centre has about 40 current staff, postdoctoral fellows, higher-degree research (HDR) students and support staff making it one of the largest and most active astronomy research groups in Australia.

Intended additional outcomes from the joint appointment include: continued growth in MQ's HDR student enrolment and completion rates, by attracting and supporting high-quality HDR candidates in astronomy (with emphasis on the prospects for co-supervision with AAO astronomers); gaining peer-reviewed access to major observing facilities; winning of internal and external project grants and teaching excellence in astronomy and physics.

The AAO Astronomy group (refer www.aao.gov.au) is responsible for the on-going management and support of the vigorous AAT observing programme. The appointee's duties will include: undertaking a pro-rata share of astronomer support duties for one or more AAT instruments (eg. AAOmega and Hermes) at the Observatory site near Coonabarabran, NSW; actively participating in assigned astronomy group tasks (eg. web page maintenance, documentation, user liaison) and undertaking a vigorous research programme to ensure that the AAO maintains its strong astronomy research outputs. The appointee will help shape the scientific vision for the AAO's astronomy program and take advantage of the specific observing opportunities afforded by the AAO's telescopes (the AAT and UKST) and other resources (e.g. the Gemini and Magellan telescopes).

Selection Criteria:

- A relevant doctoral degree in physics or astronomy or substantial equivalent academic experience/accreditation and standing;
- Proven record of ongoing research and publication, an active research program;
- Capacity and/or demonstrated ability to perform quality teaching;
- Capacity and/or demonstrated ability to attract and successfully supervise research students;
- Demonstrated ability to communicate and interact effectively with students, staff, and the community;
- Capacity and/or demonstrated ability to attract research grants.
- Experience observing with or supporting observations on large telescopes is highly desirable.

In addition, a level C applicant should have a:

- demonstrated ability to lead international research projects;
- proven ability to attract major external grant funding;
- solid track record of PhD student supervision; and
- demonstrated ability to communicate effectively with colleagues, students, and the community.

Candidates must address the selection criteria, in a separate document and upload with an up to date CV. Candidates should also include a one-page statement of ways in which they could contribute significantly to the activities and outputs of MQ AAAstro research centre and also how they would complement the research environment of the AAO

Applications Close: Sunday, 19 February 2012