



Call for applications – Australian-based astronomer to serve on the GMTO Board

Applications close on Friday 23rd August 2019 at 5pm AWST.

The Giant Magellan Telescope (GMT) is a next-generation optical/infra-red instrument, currently under construction at the Las Campanas Observatory site in Chile. At 24.5 metres in diameter, the telescope will have six times the collecting area of the largest instrument in existence. The GMT is being developed by the Giant Magellan Telescope Organisation (GMTO), a non-stock, non-profit corporation. The GMTO was founded to own and administer the planning, design, construction and operation of the telescope. The GMTO operates on behalf of an international consortium of universities and organisations, including Astronomy Australia Limited (AAL) and the Australian National University (ANU) who are each entitled to nominate one director to the GMTO Board.

AAL and ANU have agreed to proceed with an arrangement where one of the two Australian GMTO Board nominees will be an astronomer, to be selected via AAL's standard open-call to the Australian astronomy community. AAL is therefore seeking written applications from Australian-based astronomers who have the skills, knowledge and motivation to serve on the GMTO Board.

The primary duty of all GMTO directors is to have a positive impact on the GMT project through effective contributions to the GMTO Board. The Board is comprised of individuals drawn from GMTO founding member institutions, and therefore it is appropriate for the successful applicant to also undertake the role of providing the GMTO with an Australian perspective.

To effectively execute these duties, the successful applicant will have significant experience as a senior member of an observatory, university astronomy department or equivalent. Previous experience with major international and/or research infrastructure projects will be highly valued, as will direct involvement with the GMT. Applicants will also be required to demonstrate the positive impact they have made while serving on previous boards and/or committees and display an awareness of Australian astronomy priorities and capabilities.

As a member of the GMTO Board, you will be required to attend approximately three meetings per year in-person, usually held in the United States, and monthly meetings via video conferencing. In addition, Australian GMTO Board members are ex-officio members of the Australian GMT Committee, meeting three times a year in Canberra (option to participate via video conferencing). While travel expenses and logistical support associated with attending all of these meetings will be provided by AAL, this position is not remunerated.

The successful applicant will be appointed for a three-year term, commencing at the conclusion of the next GMTO Board meeting. That meeting will be held in-person between the 15th and 17th of October 2019 in Pasadena, California. The successful applicant will be expected to attend that meeting as an observer as an induction to their role on the GMTO Board.

How to apply

Please submit an application of no more than three A4 pages, containing:

- a brief CV
- your relevant expertise
- any possible conflicts of interest

via [email](#) to **Mr Mark McAuley**, Chief Executive Officer. If you would like to discuss this role, please contact Mark by [email](#), or by phone on **03 9214 8036**.

Please note: Professor Chris Tinney (UNSW) currently serves on the GMTO Board. Chris is eligible to re-apply as part of this process, and his application would be given the same consideration as any other application.

The AAL Board is scheduled to consider this matter when it meets on 28th August 2019, and subsequently nominate their preferred candidate for ratification by the GMTO Founders.

AAL is committed to equity and diversity and encourages applications from anyone with the appropriate expertise and skill level.