

Call for applications – Australian-based astronomer to serve on the GMT SAC

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).

As part of the GMTO, AAL is entitled to nominate an astronomer to serve on the GMT Science Advisory Committee (SAC). AAL's nomination must then be ratified by the GMTO Board to ensure the committee maintains the balance of skills and breadth of research expertise required to best serve the organisation.

AAL is seeking written applications from astronomers who are interested to serve on this committee. The successful applicant must be an Australian-based astronomer with an active and successful research career directly relevant to the GMT. Significant experience serving on science advisory committees or involvement with similar groups will be highly valued, as will involvement with international projects and a demonstrated ability to engage with Australian astronomers. Previous experience working within international/national observatories and/or telescope construction projects will be highly valued.

As a member of the GMT SAC, you will be required to attend three meetings a year in person, usually held in the United States. These are generally scheduled for March, July and November, with the next meeting taking place between the 4th and 6th of November 2019 in Pasadena, California. Between these face-to-face meetings, GMT SAC members are also expected to attend hour-long sessions via video conferencing, generally held once a month. In addition, Australian GMT SAC 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 AAL GMT SAC representative will be appointed for a 2-year term, commencing in September 2019.

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 **Mita Brierley**, AAL Chief Business Officer. If you would like to discuss this role, please contact Mita by [email](#).

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

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