



Call for nominations for an Australian-based astronomer to the Giant Magellan Telescope Science Advisory Committee

Applications close on Tuesday 5th October 2021, 5PM AEST. Late applications will not be accepted.

[Astronomy Australia Limited](#) (AAL) is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee whose [members](#) are all Australian universities and research organisations with a significant astronomy research capability. Its core business is to manage programmes which provide astronomers with access to national astronomy infrastructure, including data and computing infrastructure.

AAL finances a portfolio of infrastructure projects and facilities from Australian Government funding. AAL oversees the progress of these projects and reports regularly on them to the Government.

Giant Magellan Telescope

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. The term of the current representative expires at the end of 2021, creating a vacancy on the committee.

Applications

AAL is seeking written applications from astronomers who are interested in a position 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 communicate with Australian astronomers. Previous experience working with international/national observatories and telescopes will be highly valued, as will applications from astronomers with stellar and exoplanet research backgrounds.

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 in March, July and November (note these arrangements have been suspended due to COVID-19 travel restrictions). Between these meetings, GMT SAC members are also expected to attend hour-long sessions via video conferencing, generally held once a month. In addition, the Australian GMT SAC representative will be a member of the Australian GMT Committee, meeting three times a year in Canberra with quarterly meetings held via video conference. While travel expenses and logistical support associated with attending these meetings will be provided by AAL, SAC members are not remunerated for their service.

The AAL GMT SAC representative will be appointed for a two-year term, commencing in January 2022.

If you consider yourself well placed to contribute to this committee via your expertise and ideas, and share AAL's vision of wanting Australian astronomy to be world leading and publicly valued, please email applications@astronomyaustralia.org.au with a maximum three-page application that includes:

- A covering letter describing your relevant expertise
- A brief CV
- Any relevant conflicts of interest.

Please do not hesitate to contact [Mita Brierley](#), AAL Chief Business Officer, if you have any questions regarding this position.

AAL is committed to equity and diversity and encourages applications from everyone with the appropriate expertise and skills.

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