



अंतर-विश्वविद्यालय केंद्र : खगोलविज्ञान और खगोलभौतिकी

INTER-UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS

An Autonomous Institution of the University Grants Commission

Applications are invited for the appointment of a Junior Research Fellow (JRF) to work full time under a research project titled “Design of an Integral Field Unit (IFU) based Spectrograph and Lab Demonstration of the IFU system” in the UV wavelength regime funded by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) through its RESPOND program. An IFU is an instrument that combines imaging and spectroscopy simultaneously. Instead of getting a spectrum along a single long-slit or for a pre-defined point, an IFU can observe and obtain spectra at many different spatial locations across a 2D region of an extended object (e.g., a galaxy) on the sky.

Specific Job Description:

The successful candidate will primarily work on the design, development and testing of an Ultraviolet Integral Field Unit for astronomical spectroscopy. This project is funded by the Indian Space research Organization (ISRO) under the RESPOND programme.

The successful candidate will

- i) work mainly at IUCAA’s instrumentation laboratory on the optical and optomechanical design, component assembly and testing of the instrument,
- ii) visit ISRO centres at other locations in India to carry out related work, some times for extended periods
- iii) participate in discussions, team meetings, reviews, seminars and conferences

Work and Reporting :

The successful candidate will work closely with the scientific staff at IUCAA and ISRO centres and will report to Prof. A. N. Ramaprakash and Prof. Kanak Saha.

Duration and Start Date:

The position is available immediately and is for one year, extendable up to two more years based on performance and availability of funds. During the third year if the candidate is suitable, the hiring will be at SRF level. The position is purely temporary and co-terminus with the project.

Nature of the Appointment and Salary:

The selected candidates will be appointed with a full-time temporary contract. The salary will be INR 37,000/- per month plus applicable House Rent Allowance (HRA) during the first two years. All other benefits are as per IUCAA norms.

Who can apply:

Candidates with first class degree in MSc (Physics/Astronomy/Astrophysics), B.E./B.Tech (optics, mechanical or any related/applicable field) completed in 2022 or later from a recognised university/institute. Candidates with valid GATE score, CSIR-UGC NET JRF are particularly encouraged but qualifications in these national-level examinations are not mandatory.

Mailing Address	:	IUCAA, Post Bag 4, Ganeshkhind, Pune - 411007, India.
Location	:	Meghnad Saha Road, Savitribai Phule Pune University Campus, Pune - 411007.
Phone	:	+91 (20) 25604100
URL	:	http://www.iucaa.in/



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Desirable Qualification:

1. Experience on instrument development in any scientific field and especially in Astronomy.
2. Good programming skills, say in Python.
3. Familiarity with tools like Zemax, Solidworks, COMSOL etc.

Application Procedure:

Eligible candidates must submit the following documents on or before October 14th, 2026 for full consideration.

- 1) Cover Letter
- 2) Curriculum Vitae
- 3) Statement of interest in Astronomy and instrumentation (max 1/2 page).
- 4) Publication or a brief description of any relevant project report (max 2 page).

Aforementioned four documents should be combined in a single PDF file and sent via email to application@iucaa.in on or before the deadline. Naming of the PDF file: candidate name_ddmmyyyy (date of birth)_time.pdf. For example, if the candidate's name is Samir Jose, date of birth is 3rd Feb, 2006, and time of creating the document is 11 am, then the file name should be SamirJose_03022006_11hr.pdf

In addition, the candidate must arrange for two recommendation letters to be sent directly by the persons recommending the candidate to the following Email address on or before the deadline. Note that reference letter writer will not receive an automated email with a link to upload their letter.

All the documents must be sent to the following E-mail address:

E-mail: application@iucaa.in

Deadline: October 16, 2026

Please Mention the subject as: "Application for JRF position under ISRO RESPOND IFU Project"

For any further queries, please email at kanak@iucaa.in

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