

University of St Andrews
School of Physics & Astronomy
Research Fellow in Astrophysics – MR1422
Salary: £30,728 - £36,661 per annum

The School of Physics & Astronomy is seeking an ambitious Research Fellow to work on searches for low-mass extrasolar planets.

Applications are invited for an active researcher in the area of radial-velocity searches for low-mass exoplanets. The successful candidate should have experience in the field of high-resolution spectroscopic characterisation of exoplanet host stars, and analysis of radial-velocity data. Additional experience with parameter estimation for transiting exoplanets, or interpretation of radial-velocity data in the presence of stellar magnetic activity, would be an advantage.

You will be expected to play a leading role in defining samples of planet-host stars from the NASA Kepler mission for intensive radial-velocity follow-up with the HARPS-N instrument, participating in HARPS-N observations, and in determining stellar effective temperatures, surface gravities, metallicities, densities, rotation periods and ages.

The School of Physics & Astronomy offers a vibrant and modern work environment. Astrophysics research in St Andrews combines observational, theoretical, and numerical research in extra-solar planets, star formation, active galactic nuclei, galaxy evolution and cosmology.

You should have a PhD in astronomy, astrophysics, or a closely related field, with experience in high-resolution stellar spectroscopy in an exoplanetary-science context.

Starting 1 May 2014, or as soon as possible thereafter. The appointment will be for a period of two years initially to work in collaboration with Professor Andrew Cameron, with potential for a one-year renewal. The project is part of the ETAEARTH consortium, funded by an FP7-SPACE grant, and is associated with the HARPS-N consortium. Informal enquiries to Andrew Cameron, e-mail: acc4@st-andrews.ac.uk

Candidates should send a CV, publication list, and a brief statement of research interest and experience. Three referees will be contacted automatically by the University after an application has been received.

Closing Date: 3 March 2014

We encourage applicants to apply online at www.vacancies.st-andrews.ac.uk/welcome.aspx, however if you are unable to do this, please call +44 (0)1334 462571 for an application pack.

Please quote ref: MR1422

The University is committed to equality of opportunity.
The University of St Andrews is a charity registered in Scotland (No SC013532).