

# UND Observatory Graduate Research Assistant

## Job description and responsibilities

The UND Observatory is a growing and expanding astronomical research and education facility in North Dakota. The goals of the UND Observatory are to: 1) support astronomical research projects in North Dakota, 2) operate and expand a robust astronomical infrastructure in support of a wide variety of research projects, and 3) serve as an education resource for K-12 educators across North Dakota.

This document describes the responsibilities and obligations for the UND Observatory Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) who is designated to work at the UND Observatory. This position is made available through the UND Department of Space Studies, but originates from the North Dakota Space Grant Consortium.

Selection for this position is made by the UND Observatory Director in consultation with the Chair of the UND Department of Space Studies. The pay rate for this position will be determined by the UND Department of Space Studies and UND Graduate School.

The formal eligibility requirements for this position include:

- U.S. citizenship.
- Have an undergraduate degree in a physical science or engineering discipline.
- Be currently enrolled as an M.S. or Ph.D. student in the UND Department of Space Studies.
- Have a graduate-level Grade Point Average of 3.0 or greater.
- Have previous experience with astronomical instrumentation and observations (highly desired, but not required).

The responsibilities of this position include:

- Devote 20 hours per week to tasks involving the UND Observatory.
- Set up, operate, and monitor the optical and radio telescopes.
- Conduct observational projects, as required.
- Monitor remote observations by other observers. This requires spending partial or complete nights at the observatory. The position will require no more than two full nights at the observatory per week.
- General maintenance and upkeep of the astronomical equipment, computers, and office trailer.
- Participate in public and private events (i.e., star parties, etc.) held at the UND Observatory.
- Daily monitoring of the UND Observatory web site.  
(<http://observatory.space.edu>).
- Other tasks, as assigned.