



## Keck Visiting Scholars Program

### SHAPING THE FUTURE

At W. M. Keck Observatory, we believe in sharing the astronomical knowledge learned from Maunakea. The Keck Visiting Scholars Program (KVSP) is among the ways we strive to do just that; by providing early career scientists hands-on work experience at our observatory, we hope to help them prepare for their professional journey, build upon their research, and most importantly, become just as inspired by the universe as we are every time we look up at the night sky.

### ABOUT

KVSP aims to inspire and develop the next generation of scientists and instrumentalists. Graduate and postdoctoral students gain valuable experience in observational astronomy, hardware, and software, working directly under the mentorship of scientists at Keck Observatory in Hawaii, home of the world's most scientifically productive ground-based optical/infrared telescopes on Earth.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Work alongside Keck Observatory staff astronomers who will serve as mentors on data collection and real-time problem solving
- Get hands-on experience with Keck Observatory's hardware/software telescope instrument operations

### BENEFITS

- Gain real-world work experience in observational astronomy
- Sharpen skills in specialized areas such as adaptive optics, planetary science, and astronomical instrumentation
- Opportunity to submit a report to an astronomical or technical journal on your KVSP experience

### APPLICATIONS

Six to eight applicants are selected every year to work at Keck Observatory for one and up-to three months. Though the internship is unpaid, travel and accommodations are covered.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

The application requires a one-page description of the research and/or technical work the scholar is interested in working on; a one-page letter of recommendation from their advisor and/or supervisor; and a selection of the Keck Scientist(s) they are interested in working with.

### RESOURCES

- KVSP online application: [KVSP Application](#)
- Keck Observatory mentors: [Keck Mentors](#)
- Sample KVSP projects: [Sample Projects](#)

### CONTACT

Contact Dr. Josh Walawender, Staff Astronomer at [jwalawender@keck.hawaii.edu](mailto:jwalawender@keck.hawaii.edu) to learn more.

*Keck Observatory gratefully acknowledges the Keck Visiting Scholars Program sponsors Roy and Frances Simperman and major contributors: M. R. and Evelyn Hudson Foundation; W. M. Keck Foundation; Edge of Space Inc.; Tom Blackburn; John and Ann Broadbent; David Cowan; Clive and Carol Davies; Bert and Candee Forbes; Carl and Marsha Hewitt; Doug Johnson and Valerie Gordon-Johnson; Andy and Worth Ludwick; Thomas E. W. McIntyre; and Jeff Steele and Rebecca Miller Steele.*