

## Home Page

## Logo



## URL

<http://www.aura-astronomy.org/>

## Subject

Astronomy - Directories

## Accessibility

Free

## Language

English

## Publisher

Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA)

## Brief History

AURA was founded on October 10, 1957 with the encouragement of the National Science Foundation (NSF). It was incorporated by a group of seven U.S. universities:

California, Chicago, Harvard, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio State, and Wisconsin. The first meeting of the Board of Directors took place in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

AURA began as a small organization dedicated to ground-based optical astronomy, managing a range of 1- to 4-meter telescopes and providing community advocacy for optical/infrared astronomy. Over the years, AURA expanded its focus to include Solar Astronomy and the Gemini 8-meter telescopes. In the 1980s, AURA took on the management of the Space Telescope Science Institute, opening up the ultraviolet, optical, and infrared wavelength bands in space with the Hubble Space Telescope.

### ***Scope and Coverage***

AURA helps to establish, nurture and promote public observatories and facilities that advance innovative astronomical research. In addition, AURA is deeply committed to public and educational outreach and to diversity throughout the astronomical and scientific workforce. AURA carries out its role through its astronomical facilities. It also takes an initiative to promote excellence in astronomical research by providing access to information about the universe from state-of-the-art facilities, surveys and archives. AURA is furthering its aims in infrared space astronomy through the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST).

### ***Kind of Information***

It gives information on several AURA centers like: AURA Observatory (AURA-O), Gemini Observatory, Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST), National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO), National Solar Observatory (NSO), Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) etc. Each of those centers is described with brief description, photograph and hyperlink. An example is shown below:



**AURA OBSERVATORY (AURA-O)** - AURA-O is the primary representative in Chile for AURA and all facilities operating or wishing to operate on its property. The facilities include National Optical Astronomy Observatory (Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory), Gemini South, Southern Astrophysical Research (SOAR) Telescope and such other observatory operations functioning under the auspices of AURA in Chile.

It also gives information on human resources. The AURA HR mission is to provide the highest level of customer service and support to NSF funded AURA operating centers. It works in a collaborative and supportive manner which facilitating change in dynamic environments. It focuses on accuracy, efficient operations and quality of serviceS include information on initial announcement, FAQ's, investment options, fidelity fund changes, transition guide for fidelity participants, transition guide for TIAA participants, pension plans and so on. resources also include AURA outreach programmes and AURA talks & presentations.

In the governance directory, AURA gives information on the Board of Directors, Oversight Council, Observatory Council (OC), Solar Observatory Council (SOC), AURA Oversight Council for Gemini (AOC-G), Space Telescope Institute Council (STIC), AURA Management Council for LSST (AMCL), Audit Committee, AURA Committee on Workforce and Diversity, Nominating Committee etc. Members of

these committees are given with name, contact detail, mail ID etc. Such as:

<b>OC</b>
<p><b>Dr. Roc Cutri</b>          Infrared Processing and Analysis Center          California Institute of Technology          Infrared Processing and Analysis Center          MS 100-22          Pasadena, CA 91125          ph: 626-395-1828          fax: 626-397-9600          Email: <a href="mailto:roc@ipac.caltech.edu">roc@ipac.caltech.edu</a></p>

Job vacancies are given with the name of post, location, responsible organization, posted date etc. as can be seen below:

Job No.	Title	Location	Organization	Posted Date
<b>Management</b>				
17-0083	Program Manager	Tucson, AZ	NOAO	5/8/2017
<b>Scientific</b>				
17-0131	Adaptive Optics Research Associate	Boulder, CO	NSO- DKIST	6/22/2017
17-0105	Assistant Scientist	Tucson, AZ	NOAO	5/31/2017

AURA also gives its strategic plan in PDF format. In the news archive, news are given in descending chronological order. AURA recognizes exceptional accomplishments by individuals, or groups of individuals, by presenting them with the AURA Outstanding Achievement Award.

Member institutions are listed with respective year and member representative. Such as:

<b>MEMBER INSTITUTIONS</b>		
* denotes founding member		
** denotes international affiliate member		
Member Institution	Year	Member Representative
Boston University	1993	Dr. Gloria Waters
California Institute of Technology	1972	Dr. Judith Cohen
Carnegie Institution for Science	1997	Dr. Mark Phillips

### *Special Features*

- Search facility is available.
- It provides the hyperlink of Gemini Observatory which is an astronomical observatory consisting of two 8.19-metre (26.9 ft) telescopes, Gemini North and Gemini South.
- Web pages can be printed directly.
- Some documents can be downloaded in PDF format.

**Arrangement Pattern**

Annual progress reports are arranged in descending chronological order as follows:

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS	
▶ CY 2016 Progress Report	<b>NEW!</b>
▶ CY 2015 Progress Report	
▶ CY 2014 Progress Report	
▶ CY 2013 Progress Report	
▶ CY 2012 Progress Report	

Acronyms are arranged alphabetically as shown below:

ACRONYM LIST	
A   B   C   D   E   F   G   H   I   J   K   L   M   N   O   P   Q   R   S	
<b>S</b>	
SAM - SOAR Adaptive Optics Module	
SAO - Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory	
SBF - Southern Base Facility (Gemini)	
SDR - System Design Review	
SMARTS - Small and Medium Aperture Research Telescope System	
SOAR - Southern Astrophysical Research Telescope	

Meetings and upcoming events are arranged in ascending chronological order as follows:

MEETINGS AND EVENTS	
<b>2017</b>	
September 11 - 12	<b>OC Meeting</b> Tucson, AZ
September 14 - 15	<b>AMCL Meeting</b> Tucson, AZ
October 4 - 6	<b>Board of Directors Meeting</b> Baltimore, MD

2018	
May 15 - 16	<b>AOC-G Meeting</b> Hilo, HI
May 17 - 18	<b>Gemini Board Meeting</b> Hilo, HI
November 13 - 14	<b>AOC-G Meeting</b> La Serena, Chile
November 14 - 16	<b>Gemini Board Meeting</b> La Serena, Chile

**Remarks**

The Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) is a consortium of 44 US institutions and 5 international affiliates that operates world-class astronomical observatories and telescopes. AURA staff makes substantive contributions to science, service or technology through a sustained and coordinated team effort.

***Comparable Tools***

- Physics and Astronomy Directory  
( [www.physlink.com/Directories/Index.cfm](http://www.physlink.com/Directories/Index.cfm) )

***Date of Access***

17<sup>th</sup> July' 2017.