About the Department

The Department of Astronomy is in the College of Arts and Sciences at Cornell University and is associated with the Cornell Graduate School's Field of Astronomy & Space Sciences. We are also associated with two research centers: the Center for Radiophysics and Space Research (CRSRI) and the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center (NAIC). The Department and these Centers form one of the leading astronomy groups in the world. Traditional areas of excellence include infrared astronomy, theoretical astrophysics, radio and radar astronomy and planetary science. Cornell astronomers play leading roles in NASA missions like the Mars rovers and Cassini, and the Spitzer Space Telescope.

The department places strong emphasis on graduate teaching and in the participation of students in ongoing research projects. We foster an interdisciplinary approach to solving astronomical problems and maintain strong ties with other departments.

Graduate Studies

Astronomy and Space Sciences is a formal Field of Graduate Study for the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees within the Graduate School of Cornell University. Graduate study is guided by faculty members drawn from various departments, including astronomy, physics, applied physics, geological sciences, theoretical and applied mechanics, and electrical engineering. The field has about thirty graduate students, a comparable number of faculty members, and a comparable number of research associates and visiting scientists.

Graduate study and research are focused on several broad areas, including theoretical astrophysics, cosmology, radio and radar astronomy, infrared and optical astronomy, and planetary sciences. Students have undergraduate experience in astronomy, physics, mathematics, chemistry, geology, engineering physics, and electrical and aeronautical engineering are encouraged to apply. While specific training in astronomy is not a prerequisite, a strong background in the physical sciences and mathematics is required. For further information consult our website: http://astro.cornell.edu.

Applications must be downloaded and completed online from http://www.gradschool.cornell.edu. For additional details and information, contact Prof. Jim Bell (Director of Graduate Studies) jfb@cornell.edu or Ms. Danielle O'Connor (Graduate Field Assistant occonnor@astro.cornell.edu; 607-255-4341).

Assistantships, Scholarships, Fellowships

Financial support for graduate students is available through Cornell University fellowships, graduate research assistantships, teaching assistantships, and National Science Foundation and other national fellowships. In addition, Cornell has been the recipient of a NASA Space Grant award with a fellowship program (six to eight fellowships per year) for graduate students in astronomy and related fields. The Department of Astronomy also awards the Bryan Patten Fellowships. Full-time research work in the summer is usually available for the Field's graduate students.