



## Centre of Excellence in Astrobiology, Amity University Mumbai

### Job Posting: Research Scientist/ Assistant Professor

Amity University is India's largest and fastest growing private education group that has established a Centre of Excellence in Astrobiology at Amity University Mumbai, Maharashtra. We are inviting applications for a full-time Research Scientist/ Assistant Professor position to work on Astrobiology research at Amity University Mumbai. Please find below details:

**Job Title:** Research Scientist / Assistant Professor

**Job Setting:** Researcher engaged in office/ laboratory/ field environment

**Location:** Amity University Mumbai (AUM)

**Hours:** 0900 hrs to 1700 hrs, Monday to Friday

**Reports to:** Head of Centre, Vice Chancellor and Chancellor of AUM

#### Job Summary

Applications are sought from independent and self-motivated early to mid-career researchers to drive forward new research, relevant to ongoing Astrobiology and Space biology projects at the Centre. Researcher is expected to support one of the main thrust areas of the Centre:

1. Investigation of Tso Kar Basin and Puga Hot springs in Ladakh as Early Mars Analogues for Biosignature Preservation
2. Investigation of Lonar Crater, Maharashtra as an analogue to Jezero Crater, Mars: Preservation of Biosignatures
3. Exposure of organisms to Space radiation and microgravity environments in Stratosphere/ Low Earth orbit. Design and development of airborne or spaceflight experiments to support India's Space Science and Human Spaceflight Program.

In their role, applicant is expected to:

1. Work at Amity University Mumbai campus as a full-time employee.
2. Undertake teaching load for ongoing astrobiology courses and programs at AUM
3. Ability to multi-task, assist the Centre head to coordinate multiple projects.
4. Build their research: Independently design and develop their science focus and associated resource requirements that EITHER directly drives (i) Mars analogue research via analogue field, laboratory or modelling-based research in Ladakh or Lonar Environment OR (ii) airborne/microgravity-based life science research for development of spaceflight experiments.
5. Undertake independent research with a view to publish in refereed journals, present research at academic seminars and at national/international conferences, where possible collaborate with other researchers worldwide.

6. Have experimental design/advanced laboratory operation capability in the area of Microbiology/Geochemistry/Molecular Biology with a strong and compulsory focus towards Astrobiology/Planetary Sciences/ Space Biology is desirable.
7. Collaborate with researchers to actively seek and secure external funding, assist to prepare and submit research proposals to external funding bodies as appropriate.
8. Supervise students from BTech, BSc, MSc, PhD levels
9. Actively contribute to Centre events (workshops, seminars, talks, conferences)
10. Show initiative and active assistance towards planned outreach events for prospective students, research institutes, industry, government, media and general public.
11. Initiate work towards opportunities for national and international collaborations

### **Selection Criteria**

Applicants must send short descriptions (50-100 words) against each selection criteria item, demonstrating their fulfilment of the same.

1. A PhD in Earth/Planetary Sciences, Chemistry, Biology or equivalent and experience in a related area, with a track record of independent research as evidenced by publications in peer-reviewed journals and conferences. **Applicants with Astrobiology experience will be prioritized.**
2. Ability and commitment to contribute to bids for competitive external funding to support individual and collaborative research activities.
3. Evidence of ability to work as part of a team and meet tight deadlines.
4. Evidence of laboratory / field / software modelling experience. (Participants with field experience/willingness to work in the field are desirable)
5. Ability to teach and communicate scientific concepts to students or non-students.
6. Ability to assist in supervision of students working on research projects.
7. Ability to maintain research databases, financial and administrative records.
8. Evidence of passion for science communication, managing events
9. Ability to work in an inter-disciplinary academic environment.

### **Compensation**

The compensation package will be prepared based on the work experience of the selected candidate, in consultation with HR department. Amity.

**Interested candidates are requested to apply here:**

**<https://forms.gle/32SncP4wmvMYzBcJ6> and within the application form, upload their latest resume (4-page limit). Last date for application is Sunday September 19, 2021.**

**Dr Siddharth Pandey**

**Head, Centre of Excellence in Astrobiology**

**Amity University Mumbai**

**Email: [spandey@mum.amity.edu](mailto:spandey@mum.amity.edu)**

**Sep 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**