Junior Instrument Specialist
Call for Undergraduate Student
Physics and Astronomy Department, University of Iowa
Pay: $12/hr, 15 hours per week

Job Summary
The Physics and Astronomy Department seeks an advanced undergraduate student to develop and maintain astronomical optics instrumentation and software at the department’s telescope facilities.

Responsibilities and Duties
The student will work with Caroline Roberts and Robert Mutel in Iowa City to ready a spectrometer setup for installation on the Physics and Astronomy department’s telescope at the Winer Observatory in Arizona. The spectrometer will be programmed by the student and the construction and integration of the parts will be completed in approximately the first month of the fall 2019 semester.

The student will travel with Caroline Roberts and Robert Mutel to the Winer Observatory in Sonoita, AZ for three separate trips in the 2019-2020 year, with the first trip in late tentatively scheduled for October 11-16, 2019. During the first trip, the spectrometer will be installed, and during subsequent trips the spectrometer will be modified as needed and characterized. All expenses are covered by the department.

The student may be trained to remotely schedule the observation plan for the department’s robotic telescope each evening. The student would perform this task each night in Iowa City.

Qualifications and Skills
Course of study in Physics, Computer Science, Engineering, or a related field, and a strong background in Math and Physics

A curious and innovative approach to astronomical hardware and software, including design, construction, testing, troubleshooting, and collaboration. Talent and work ethic related to such endeavors

A high level of responsibility and discipline, including the ability to be consistent and prompt with a daily task

Flexibility to work an irregular schedule, which will involve some travel, nights, work hours that vary from week-to-week, and ability to begin work immediately