

Date

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Dear Applicant,

It is our pleasure to inform you that we have recommended your admission to the graduate program in The Department of Astronomy at The University of Texas at Austin for the Fall 2011 semester. You have been recommended for admission based on the strength of your application and your demonstrated prospects for success in our graduate program. As soon as all of your application materials have been verified and approved by the Graduate and International Admissions Center (GIAC), the Graduate School will send you an official admission notification.

The field of astronomy is experiencing revolutionary developments, and our department is comprised of key players in frontier areas such as cosmology, galaxy evolution, stellar evolution, and planetary systems. The astronomy community at UT Austin-- including our faculty, research scientists, post-docs, current students and staff-- extends you a warm welcome. We encourage you to visit us March 3-5 to explore the research options we offer and to sample life here in Austin.

We are offering you financial support as either a teaching assistant or as a graduate research assistant for Fall 2011 through Summer 2012. The stipend for our graduate student employees is at least \$1898 per month (\$22,776 for a 12-month period.) Your employment will entitle you to in-state tuition rates, and we will cover the cost of your tuition and fees (approximately \$8500 per year). In addition, your employment will include full medical coverage through Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Texas. The University will contribute about \$4428 per year towards your health insurance coverage (or ~\$369 per month.) Therefore, total financial support for your first year is approximately \$35,000. Finally, the Department provides each of our incoming graduate students with a new computer. This computer would be provided in addition to the extensive network of workstations and supercomputers already available at the University.

While this offer, strictly speaking, is only guaranteed for your first year, the Department of Astronomy has throughout its history been able to support all students who are making satisfactory progress towards their degree and are performing their duties in a satisfactory manner. That support includes all items mentioned in the previous paragraphs and includes summer support.

We hope you will be joining our program. Please sign and return this letter with your signature no later than April 15, 2011. Please be aware that we do have a waiting list and space in our program is limited, so we would be delighted to receive your response to our offer as soon as possible in order to give another student a chance attending.

If you have any questions concerning your admission or setting up a visit, please contact Rachel Walker at rachelw@astro.as.utexas.edu.

Sincerely,

Neal J. Evans
Chair, Astronomy Department
chair@astro.as.utexas.edu

*The offer made is based upon the information available to the admissions committee at the time of evaluation. Applicant agrees to provide further official documentation if needed. Students whose admission GPA is calculated by the University to be below 3.0 may be required to meet certain provisions during their first semester. Financial support beyond the first semester in the form of a fellowship is contingent on maintaining satisfactory academic progress. Financial support beyond the first semester in the form of employment as a teaching assistant (TA), assistant instructor (AI), or graduate research assistant (GRA), or other student academic employee is contingent upon maintaining both satisfactory job performance as defined by the employing unit and satisfactory academic progress.

Acceptance Form

Please indicate your acceptance or declination of our offer on a copy of this letter and return to Rachel Walker at rachelw@astro.as.utexas.edu or fax to Attn: Rachel Walker 512-471-6016 by April 15th, 2011.

PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX:

I do accept the above offer:

I decline the above offer:

Printed Name

EID

Signature

Date

