The [Department of Astronomy](#) at the University of Maryland (UMD), College Park, is offering a postdoctoral fellowship position in small body data science, including support duties with the [Small Bodies Node](#) (SBN) of NASA's Planetary Data System (PDS). The Small Bodies Node is based in the [Department of Astronomy](#) at UMD, and is an active participant with the Planetary Astronomy Group, which includes a large number of planetary scientists working primarily on small bodies (comets and asteroids) and on dynamics, and with participants in a variety of missions including the Double Asteroid Redirect Test (DART), NEO Surveyor, and Lucy as well as many research projects, including observation programs using the James Maxwell Space Telescope (JWST; see also https://www.astro.umd.edu/rareas/). The position is partly in support of the SBN archiving and oversight efforts as well, and will be for the duration of two years, with the potential for renewal to a third year.

The minimum requirements include a PhD level degree in astronomy, computer science, engineering, or a related field. The candidate should have proficiency in a programming language, including C or Python, and familiarity with UNIX and API interfaces. The ideal candidate will have demonstrable experience with the PDS in their past research.

Interested applicants should send a cover letter explaining their data science achievements and interests, a complete CV, and a list of references through [this form](#). Applications received by **January 20, 2023** will receive full consideration.

An overview of included benefits offered at UMD may be viewed [here](#).

Background Checks: *Offers of employment are contingent on completion of a background check. A prior criminal conviction or convictions will not automatically disqualify a finalist from employment in the position.*

Vaccine Protocol: *All students, faculty, and staff are required to be vaccinated against COVID. Proof of full vaccination will be required before the start of employment in order to work at any University of Maryland location.*

Diversity Statement: *The University of Maryland, College Park, an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action; all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment. The University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, physical or mental disability, protected veteran status, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, creed, marital status, political affiliation, personal appearance, or on the basis of rights secured by the First Amendment, in all aspects of employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions.*