

Emerson Whittaker

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Education

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) PhD: Planetary Science	Expected Jun. 2026
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) MS: Planetary Science	Jun. 2023
University of Maryland, College Park (UMD) BS: Physics, Astronomy	May 2021

Experience

Graduate Student Researcher Jean-Luc Margot; UCLA	Sep. 2021–present
Research Assistant Eliza Kempton, Matej Malik; UMD	Aug. 2020–May 2021
Summer Intern George Helou, Frank Masci; Caltech GROWTH SURF	June–Aug. 2020
Research Assistant Drake Deming; UMD	Aug. 2019–May 2020
Summer Intern Patrick Taylor, Ed Rivera-Valentín; Lunar and Planetary Institute	June–Aug. 2019
Research Assistant Suvi Gezari; UMD	Jul.–Aug. 2018

Awards and Honors

John N. Truex Research Award Earth, Planetary, and Space Sciences, UCLA	Sep. 2023
Cota-Robles Fellowship UCLA	2021–2022, 2024–2025
Departmental Scholarship Earth, Planetary, and Space Sciences, UCLA	2021–2022
High Honors in Astronomy UMD	May 2021
Honors College Citation: Design Cultures and Creativity UMD	May 2019

Select Works

Ih, J., Kempton, E. M. R., **Whittaker, E. A.**, and Lessard, M. (2023). Constraining the Thickness of TRAPPIST-1 b's Atmosphere from Its JWST Secondary Eclipse Observation at 15 μm . *ApJL*, 952 (1), L4.

Whittaker, E. A., Margot, J. L., Lam, A. L. H., and Myhrvold, N. (2023). Thermal Models of Asteroids with Two-band Combinations of Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer Cryogenic Data. *PSJ*, 4 (4), 64.

Lam, A. L. H., Margot, J. L., **Whittaker, E. A.**, and Myhrvold, N. (2023). Determination of 1929 Asteroid Rotation Periods from WISE Data. *PSJ*, 4 (4) 61.

Whittaker, E. A., Margot, J. L., Lam, A. L. H., and Myhrvold, N. (2022). Analysis of Two-Band WISE Observations of Asteroids. *DPS Abstract (Talk)*, 54 (8), 504.07.

Whittaker, E. A., Malik, M., Ih, J., Kempton, E. M. R., Mansfield, M., Bean, J. L., Kite, E. S., Koll, D. D. B., Cronin, T. W., and Hu, R (2022). The Detectability of Rocky Planet Surface and Atmosphere Composition with JWST: The Case of LHS 3844b. *AJ*, 164 (6), 258.

Kriedberg, L., Hu, H., Kite, E. S., Koll, D., Malik, M., Morley, C., Schaefer, L., and **Whittaker, E** (2021). A Search for Signatures of Volcanism and Geodynamics on the Hot Rocky Exoplanet LHS 3844b. *JWST Accepted Proposal*, Cycle 1, 1846.

Whittaker, E., Taylor, P. A., and Rivera-Valentín, E. G (2020). Uncertainty Assessment of Near-Earth Asteroid Size Measurements from Radar Images. *LPSC Abstract (Talk scheduled)*, 51, 1446.

Teaching and Outreach

Interview, <i>Nature</i>	Feb. 2024
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Teaching Assistant, Astrobiology (EPS SCI 3), UCLA	Sep.–Dec. 2022, 2023
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Exploring Your Universe Volunteer, UCLA	Nov. 2022, 2023
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Interview, <i>New Scientist</i>	Jul. 2022
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Summer Literacy Program Science Volunteer, Boone United Methodist Church	Jul. 2021
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WMUC Radio Show Co-host: <i>Radio Astronomy</i> , UMD	2018–2021
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