

# FELIX MIRABEL BECOMES ESO REPRESENTATIVE IN CHILE

Starting on April 1, Felix Mirabel will take up a double role as ESO Representative in Chile and Head of ESO's Office for Science in Chile.

Felix Mirabel was born in 1944 in Uruguay. After finishing secondary school, he went to Argentina where he obtained a PhD in Astrophysics at the University of La Plata, and a Master degree in Philosophy from the University of Buenos Aires. He pursued post-doctoral studies at Jodrell Bank in the UK, at the University of Maryland, and then in Puerto Rico using the Arecibo radiotelescope. In 1990, after having worked at Caltech as a Guggenheim fellow, he moved to France working as director of research at the CEA (Saclay), where he stayed until joining ESO.

His scientific career has spanned the electromagnetic spectrum, from his early work in the radio domain to the optical, then infrared, millimetre and X- and gamma-ray astronomy. He has made use of a wide variety of the world's observational facilities, including all of ESO's major telescopes, from the 3.6 m to the SEST, from the NTT to the VLT.

His research has covered topics such as star formation, galactic structure, compact binaries, gamma-ray bursts and interacting galaxies. He is particularly well-known for

the identification of ultra-luminous infrared galaxies as a new class of objects and for his discoveries of microquasars in our galaxy, for which he has been awarded prizes in the US and in Europe, and last year a Doctorate Honoris Causa from the University of Barcelona.

On April 1, Felix Mirabel will take up a double role: he will be ESO's Representative in Chile as well as the Head of ESO's Office for Science in Chile. As ESO Representative, his main wish is to continue to improve the present very good relationship between ESO and Chile, both with its people and authorities. He feels that "this is a very good time to take up this post, following the excellent work done by Daniel Hofstadt." He sees continued strengthening of the relations with Chile not only through an enhancement of scientific capabilities of Chilean universities but also through cultural and educational programmes at large. In his post, Felix Mirabel will also strive to work in harmony with the US and Japan for the construction of ALMA.

In his other role as Head of ESO's Office for Science in Chile, his aim is to foster science across all ESO centres in cooperation with Chilean research groups. "When I arrived, I was impressed by the work of Danielle Alloin. Together with Daniel

Hofstadt, she has shaped Vitacura and made it an attractive astronomical centre in Chile. I also appreciate very much the fact that all ESO staff members, fellows and students are eager to enhance science in Chile, organizing by own initiative thematic groups of discussion and helping in a great variety of activities. Certainly, my new tasks won't leave me much time to continue my own research in the same way as before. But through this new role in the organization I aim to work for excellent conditions of astronomical research in Chile, and I am convinced that I will greatly enjoy the discoveries to be made at ESO by the young generation of astronomers."



## ESO STUDENTSHIP PROGRAMME

The European Southern Observatory research student programme aims at providing opportunities to enhance the Ph.D. programmes of ESO member-state universities. Its goal is to bring young scientists into close contact with the instruments, activities, and people at one of the world's foremost observatories. For more information about ESO's astronomical research activities please consult <http://www.eso.org/science/>

The ESO studentship programme is shared between the ESO headquarters in Garching (Germany) and the ESO offices in Santiago (Chile). These positions are open to students enrolled in a Ph.D. programme at a university in an ESO member state or, exceptionally, at an institution outside ESO member states.

Students in the programme work on their doctoral project under the formal supervision of their home university. They come to either Garching or Santiago for a stay of normally one or two years to conduct part of their studies under the co-supervision of an ESO staff astronomer. Candidates and their home-institute supervisors should agree on a research project together with the ESO local supervisor. A list of potential ESO supervisors and their research interests can be found at <http://www.eso.org/science/sci-pers.html#faculty> and <http://www.sc.eso.org/santiago/science/person.html>. A list of current PhD projects offered by ESO staff is available at <http://www.eso.org/science/thesis-topics/>. It is highly recommended that the applicants start their Ph.D. studies at their home institute before continuing their Ph.D. work and developing observational expertise at ESO.

In addition, the students in Chile have the opportunity to volunteer for as many as 40 days/night work per year at the La Silla-Paranal observatory. These duties are decided on a trimester by trimester basis, aiming at giving the student insight into the observatory operations, and shall not interfere with the research project of the student in Santiago.

**The closing date for applications is June 15, 2005.**

Please apply by: filling the form available at <http://www.eso.org/gen-fac/adm/pers/forms/student05-form.pdf> and attaching to your application:

- a Curriculum Vitae (incl. a list of publications, if any), with a copy of the transcript of university certificate(s)/diploma(s).
- a summary of the master thesis project (if applicable) and ongoing projects indicating the title and the supervisor (maximum half a page), as well as an outline of the Ph.D. project highlighting the advantages of coming to ESO (recommended 1 page, max. 2).
- two letters of reference, one from the home institute supervisor/advisor and one from the ESO local supervisor,
- and a letter from the home institution that i) guarantees the financial support for the remaining Ph.D. period after the termination of the ESO studentship, ii) indicates whether the requirements to obtain the Ph.D. degree at the home institute are already fulfilled.

All documents should be typed and in English (but no translation is required for the certificates and diplomas).

The application material has to be addressed to:

European Southern Observatory  
Studentship Programme  
Karl-Schwarzschild-Str.2  
85748 Garching bei München (Germany)

All material, including the recommendation letters, must reach ESO by the deadline (June 15); **applications arriving after the deadline or incomplete applications will not be considered!**

Candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process in July 2005. Studentships typically begin between August and December of the year in which they are awarded. In well justified cases starting dates in the year following the application can be negotiated.

For further information contact Christina Stoffer ([cstoffer@eso.org](mailto:cstoffer@eso.org)).