The purpose of these summer schools is to provide the opportunity for young researchers to gain practical experience in observational techniques, data reduction and analysis and the use of virtual observatory tools. Students will carry out small research projects, centred on selected astrophysical topics, in small groups under the supervision of experienced astronomers. These practical exercises will be complemented by lectures on general observational techniques and archival research for both ground and space based astronomy.

The observing school at the telescopes in Haute-Provence will largely concentrate on the skills required to execute an observing programme (imaging and spectroscopy), giving emphasis to spectroscopy and instrumental developments. The Archive Observing School at ESO will concentrate more on the quality appraisal of existing data and the research possible with large databases combining ground and space data, with emphasis on data-reduction techniques and the new tools now available within the Virtual Observatory.

The schools are sponsored by the European Community, Marie Curie Actions.

The objective of our conference is to bring together researchers, both observational and theoretical, to present and discuss the most recent results. Topics to be covered are: internal dynamics of globular clusters and interaction with host galaxies (tidal tails, evolution of cluster masses), accretion of globular clusters, detailed descriptions of nearby cluster systems, ultracompact dwarfs, formations of massive clusters in mergers and elsewhere, the ACS Virgo survey, galaxy formation and globular clusters, dynamics and kinematics of globular-cluster systems, and dark-matter-related problems.


Scientific Organising Committee: Bruce Elmegreen, Duncan Forbes, Doug Geisler, Eva Grebel, Leopoldo Infante, Markus Kissler-Patig, Søren S. Larsen (co-chair), Tom Richtler (chair).

Visit our webpage: www.astro-udec.cl
Contact: gcgg@www.astro-udec.cl

The schools are principally open to Astronomy PhD students and postdocs who are nationals of a Member State or an Associate State of the European Union. Applications from non-European students will also be considered, depending on the resources available.

For further details, see: http://www.eso.org/neon-2006 and http://www.iap.fr/eas/neonNew.html