

Early-Career Scientific Visitor Programme at ESO Chile and Garching

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The ESO Offices for Science in Garching and Santiago have introduced a special programme to support short-term visits by early-career scientists of any nationality, to enable them to gain some research experience at ESO.

Named the Early-Career Scientific Visitor Programme, the programme is a flexible channel through which young astronomers can enrich their professional profile with short-term research experience. With it ESO aims to support young astronomers who have been particularly disadvantaged by the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, ESO seeks to promote scientific interaction with its community and research institutions worldwide and enhance ESO's role as an astronomical centre of excellence.

The selected candidates will receive support for travel and lodging for the period of the visit, office space and a computer terminal with an account.

Students enrolled in a PhD programme in astronomy or related discipline and young post-doctoral researchers up to three years after their PhD are eligible to apply to the Early-Career Scientific Visitor Programme.

Early-career visitors will be able to spend from one to four months working on their research project at ESO. They will have the opportunity to participate in a vibrant scientific atmosphere and to promote their own research. Through this programme visitors will have the chance to look for potential collaborators and foster scientific interactions with an international community.

Whilst visiting ESO the early-career scientists will have the unique opportunity to meet ESO experts who are deeply involved in the development and operation of the ESO facilities at La Silla Paranal Observatory as well as the Atacama Pathfinder EXperiment (APEX), and the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA), and in the organisation of ESO proposal submission, data processing and archive research. It will also be a good opportunity to meet the experts who are building instruments and ESO's Extremely Large Telescope (ELT).

Early-career astronomers interested in applying to this programme should coordinate in advance with an ESO scientific staff member or Fellow who will act as contact point and will support the visit. Applicants can also contact the chair of the ESO visiting committee asking for assistance to find possible ESO collaborators who can act as host of the visit.

The Offices for Science encourage interested candidates to submit their applications at any time of the year and at least four months before the visit so as to properly arrange the logistics. Candidates will be evaluated on the basis of their scientific excellence, the scientific project proposed for the visit, and its feasibility in terms of goals against the requested duration of the visit.

More information about the programme, eligibility and instructions for applications can be found on the dedicated webpages for visits to Garching¹ and Chile².

Links

¹ Programme webpage for visits to Garching:
https://www.eso.org/sci/activities/garching/personnelvisitors/Policy_Early-Career_Scientific_Visitors_Garching.html

² Programme webpage for visits to Chile:
<https://www.eso.org/sci/activities/santiago/personnel/ecsvp.html>

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Once used as the otherworldly lair for a James Bond villain, the ESO Residencia usually serves a far less sinister purpose! Since construction was completed in 2002, it has been a home from home for the astronomers, engineers and technicians working at ESO's Paranal Observatory in Chile. The sleek

building sits 2400 metres above sea level in the Mars-like Atacama Desert, just a few kilometres from Cerro Paranal — the mountain that hosts ESO's Very Large Telescope (VLT) and Visible and Infrared Survey Telescope for Astronomy (VISTA).