

Applications are invited for a Staff Astronomer position at APEX (the Atacama Pathfinder EXperiment) located on Chajnantor near San Pedro de Atacama, Chile.

Staff Astronomer (CSO111)

CAREER PATH: V

Assignment: APEX is a sub-mm telescope presently being erected at the ALMA site of Chajnantor in Chile through a collaboration between the MPIfR, ESO and Sweden. The site is excellent for sub-mm observations, and the telescope will be equipped with bolometer arrays and heterodyne receivers for observations at sub-mm wavelengths as well as in the THz band. We seek two staff astronomers for APEX. They will join a team of scientists, engineers, and technicians, in total 20 people, responsible for the operation and maintenance of the antenna and its instrumentation. Astronomers will be part of the science operations group responsible to support observations, both in visitor mode and service mode, to develop calibration and quality control procedures for the instruments, to control the configuration of the system, and to develop operational procedures for the telescope including pointing models. The Science Operations team will consist of staff astronomers, fellows and telescope operators.

As an astronomer and member of the ESO Science Faculty, the successful candidate will be expected and encouraged to actively conduct astronomical research up to 50% of the time using APEX and other facilities. The APEX astronomers spend 105 nights per year carrying out functional duties in the APEX base in San Pedro de Atacama and at the telescope, which is located on Chajnantor at an altitude of 5000 m, usually in a shift of 8 days in San Pedro with trips to Chajnantor, followed by 6 days off. The rest of their time is spent in the Santiago office. Scientific trips and stays at other institutions, also in Europe are foreseen.

Education: Ph.D. in Astronomy, Physics or equivalent

Experience and knowledge: APEX is seeking active staff astronomers with a solid publication record in observational astronomy. Observational experience with (sub)mm telescopes will be an asset. At least three years of post-doctoral experience as well as excellent communication skills and a good command of the English language (spoken and written) will be required.

Duty station: San Pedro de Atacama, La Silla and Santiago, Chile

Starting date: As soon as possible

Contract: The initial contract is for a period of three years with the possibility of a fixed-term extension. Promotions will be based on scientific as well as functional achievements. It is necessary to take a high altitude medical examination before taking up the post.

Remuneration: We offer an attractive remuneration package including a competitive salary (tax-free) and comprehensive social benefits. Furthermore, an expatriation allowance as well as some other allowances may be added. Either the title or the grade may be subject to change according to education and the number of years of experience.

Applications consisting of your CV (in English language) and the ESO Application Form (to be obtained from the ESO Home Page at <http://www.eso.org/>) and four letters of reference should be submitted by **15 October 2003**.

For further information, please consult the ESO Home Page or contact Mrs. Nathalie Kastelyn

ESO Fellowship Programme 2003/2004

THE EUROPEAN SOUTHERN OBSERVATORY AWARDS SEVERAL POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS to provide young scientists opportunities and facilities to enhance their research programmes. Its goal is to bring them 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/>

Fellows have ample opportunities for scientific collaborations, a list of the ESO staff and fellows, and their research interest can be found at <http://www.eso.org/science/sci-pers.html> and <http://www.sc.eso.org/santiago/science/person.html>. The ESO Headquarters in Munich, Germany host the Space Telescope European Coordinating Facility and are situated in the immediate neighbourhood of the Max-Planck-Institutes for Astrophysics and for Extraterrestrial Physics and are only a few kilometres away from the Observatory of the Ludwig-Maximilian University. In Chile, fellows have the opportunity to collaborate with the rapidly expanding Chilean astronomical community in a growing partnership between ESO and the host country's academic community.

In Garching, fellows spend beside their personal research up to 25% of their time on support or development activities of their choice in the area of e.g. instrumentation, user support, archive, VLTI, ALMA, public relations or science operations at the Paranal Observatory. Fellowships in Garching start with an initial contract of one year followed by a two-year extension.

In Chile, the fellowships are granted for one year initially with an extension of three additional years. During the first three years, the fellows are assigned to either the Paranal or La Silla operations groups. They support the astronomers in charge of operational tasks at a level of 50% of their time (split into 80 nights per year up on the mountain and 35 days per year at the Santiago Office). During the fourth year there is no functional work and several options are provided. The fellow may be hosted by a Chilean institution and will thus be eligible to apply for Chilean observing time on all telescopes in Chile. The other options are to spend the fourth year either at ESO's Astronomy Centres in Santiago, Chile, or the ESO Headquarters in Garching, or any institute of astronomy/astrophysics in an ESO member state.

Starting in 2004 three APEX Fellow positions are becoming available within the ESO Fellowship programme in Chile. Applications for these positions are especially encouraged.

We offer an attractive remuneration package including a competitive salary (tax-free), comprehensive social benefits, and provide financial support in relocating families. Furthermore, an expatriation allowance as well as some other allowances may be added. The Outline of the Terms of Service for Fellows at <http://www.eso.org/gen-fac/adm/pers/fellows.html> provides some more details on employment conditions/benefits.

Candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process in December 2003/January 2004. Fellowships begin between April and October of the year in which they are awarded. Selected fellows can join ESO only after having completed their doctorate.

The closing date for applications is October 15, 2003.

Information on how to apply can be found at <http://www.eso.org/gen-fac/adm/pers/vacant/fellows2003-4.html>