ESO Studentship Programme

The European Southern Observatory research student programme aims at providing opportunities and facilities 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 Vitacura offices in Santiago (Chile). These positions are open to students enrolled in a Ph.D. programme in the ESO member states and, exceptionally, at a university outside the 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 interest 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 institution before continuing their Ph.D. work and developing observational expertise at ESO. In addition, the students in Chile have the opportunity to volunteer for a small amount of duties (~40 nights per year) at the La Silla Observatory. These duties are decided on a trimester by trimester basis, aiming at giving the student insight into the operation and activities at La Silla.

The closing date for applications is June 15, 2004.

Please apply by: filling the form available at http://www.eso.org/gen-fac/adm/pers/forms/student04-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 2004. 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.

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