



ESO

European Organisation
for Astronomical
Research in the
Southern Hemisphere



ESO Studentship Programme

The European Southern Observatory research student programme aims to provide opportunities to enhance the PhD programmes of ESO member-state universities. Its goal is to bring young scientists into close contact with the activities and people at one of the world's foremost observatories. For more information about ESO's astronomical research activities please consult 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 PhD programme in astronomy or related fields. In addition, ESO will provide up to two studentship positions per year in Santiago for students enrolled in South American universities.

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 between one and two years to conduct part of their studies under the co-supervision of an ESO staff astronomer. Candidates and their supervisors at the home institute 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 www.eso.org/sci/activities/personnel.html. A list of current PhD projects offered by ESO staff is available at www.eso.org/sci/activities/thesis-topics/. It is highly recommended that the applicants start their PhD studies at their home institute before continuing their PhD work and developing observational expertise at ESO.

ESO Chile students will have an opportunity to visit the observatories and get involved in small projects aimed at providing an insight into operations at the observatory. Such visits and projects, which are voluntary, will be scheduled to ensure that they do not interfere with the research project of the student in Santiago.

In Garching, students can benefit from the series of lectures given to the PhD students enrolled in the IMPRS (International Max-Planck Research School on Astrophysics) PhD programme; attendance is voluntary. Students who are already enrolled in a PhD programme in the Munich area (e.g., the IMPRS or at a Munich University) and wish to apply for an ESO studentship in Garching, should provide compelling justification for their application.

The Outline of the Terms of Service for Students (www.eso.org/public/employment/student.html) provides some more details on employment conditions and benefits.

The closing date for applications is 15 June 2009. Late applications will be accepted until all the positions are filled.

Please attach to your application the following documents:

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

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

Review of the received material, including the recommendation letters, will start on June 15. Applications arriving after this deadline will be considered until all the positions are filled. Incomplete applications will not be considered. All reference letters should be sent electronically to vacancy@eso.org.

Candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process in July 2009. 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 please contact Christina Stoffer (cstoffer@eso.org).

The post is open equally to suitably qualified male and female applicants.

