



ESO

European Organisation  
for Astronomical  
Research in the  
Southern Hemisphere



## ESO Studentship Programme 2016 – 2nd Call

The research studentship programme of the European Southern Observatory provides an outstanding opportunity for PhD students to experience the exciting scientific environment at one of the world's leading observatories for a period of up to two years.

ESO is the foremost intergovernmental astronomy organisation in Europe. Its approximately 110 staff astronomers, 40 Fellows and 50 PhD students conduct front-line research in fields ranging from exoplanets to cosmology, offering one of the most vibrant and stimulating scientific settings anywhere in the world.

ESO's studentship positions are open to students enrolled in a PhD programme in astronomy or related fields. Students accepted into the programme work on their doctoral project under the formal supervision of their home university, but they come to ESO to work and study under the co-supervision of an ESO staff astronomer, normally for a period of between one and two years. Studentships may be hosted either at ESO's Headquarters in Garching (Germany) or at ESO's offices in Santiago (Chile), where up to two positions per year are provided for students enrolled in South American universities.

Applicants and their home institute supervisors should agree upon and coordinate their research project jointly with their prospective ESO supervisor. For this purpose the ESO supervisor should be contacted well in advance of the application deadline (15 November 2016).

ESO Chile students have the opportunity to visit the observatories and to get involved in small technical projects aimed at giving insights into the observatory operations and instrumentation. Such involvement is also strongly encouraged for Garching students. In addition, students in Garching may attend and benefit from the series of lectures delivered in the framework of the International Max-Planck Research School on Astrophysics. ESO students are expected to contribute to the science life at ESO, participating in the activities promoted by the Offices for Science, including organisations of seminars and workshops, science gatherings, training sessions, outreach initiatives, etc.

Students who are already enrolled in a PhD programme in the Munich area and who wish to apply for an ESO studentship in Garching, should provide a compelling justification for their application.

If you are interested in enhancing your PhD experience through an extended stay at ESO, then please apply by completing the web application form available at: <https://recruitment.eso.org>

Please include the following documents in your application:

- a cover letter;
- a Curriculum Vitae, including a list of publications, if any;
- copies of your university transcript and certificate(s) or diploma(s);
- a summary of your master's thesis project (if applicable) and ongoing projects, indicating the title and the supervisor (maximum half a page);
- the names and contact details of your home institute supervisor and the ESO local supervisor. They will be automatically invited to submit a recommendation letter, however, applicants are strongly advised to trigger these

invitations (using the web application form) well in advance of the application deadline;

- an outline of the PhD project, containing a clear timeline including the start and expected end dates of the PhD, the requested starting date and duration for the ESO studentship (recommended one page, maximum two). The candidate should highlight in the project description the advantages of coming to ESO;
- a letter from the home institute that: i) guarantees financial support (salary, health insurance and travel money) for the remaining PhD period after the termination of the ESO studentship; ii) indicates whether the prerequisites to obtain the PhD degree at the home institute have already been met.

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

There are two application rounds each year (May and November): the closing date for applications for this 2nd round is 15 November 2016. Review of the application documents, including the recommendation letters, will begin immediately. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process during December 2016. Studentships will normally begin between January and June 2017.

### Further information

For more information about the studentship programme please see: <http://www.eso.org/sci/activities/FeSt-overview/ESOstudentship.html>

For a list of current ESO staff and fellows, and their research interests, please see: <http://www.eso.org/sci/activities/personnel.html>

A list of PhD projects currently being offered by ESO staff can be found at: <http://www.eso.org/sci/activities/thesis-topics.html>

Details on the employment conditions and benefits are available at: <http://www.eso.org/public/jobs/conditions/students/>

### For any additional questions, please contact:

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**For Chile:** Claudio De Figueiredo Melo, Tel.: +56 2 4633032,  
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Although recruitment preference will be given to nationals of ESO Member States (Austria, Belgium, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom), and, for Chile, to students enrolled in a South American university, no nationality is in principle excluded.

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

