

ESO Fellowship Programme 1997/98

The European Southern Observatory (ESO) intends to award up to six postdoctoral fellowships tenable at the ESO Headquarters, located in Garching near Munich, and up to two postdoctoral fellowships tenable at ESO's Astronomy Centre in Santiago, Chile.

ESO facilities include the La Silla Observatory in Chile, the VLT Observatory on Cerro Paranal, and the astronomical centres in Garching and Santiago. At La Silla, ESO operates eight optical telescopes with apertures in the range from 0.9 m to 3.6 m, the 15-m SEST millimetre radio telescope, and smaller instruments. First light for the first telescope of the Very Large Telescope (VLT) consisting of four 8-m telescopes is expected in the first quarter 1998. Both the ESO Headquarters and the Astronomy Centre in Santiago offer extensive computing facilities, libraries and other infrastructure for research support. The Space Telescope European Co-ordinating Facility (ST-ECF), located in the ESO Headquarters building, offers the opportunity for collaborations. In the Munich area, several Max-Planck Institutes and the University Observatory have major programmes in astronomy and astrophysics and provide further opportunities for joint programmes. In Chile, astronomers from the rapidly expanding Chilean astronomical community collaborate with ESO colleagues in a growing partnership between ESO and the host country's academic community.

The main areas of activity at the Headquarters and in Chile are:

- research in observational and theoretical astrophysics;
- managing and constructing the VLT;
- developing the interferometer and adaptive optics for the VLT;
- operating the La Silla Observatory;
- development of instruments for current ESO telescopes and for the VLT;
- calibration, analysis, management and archiving of data from the current ESO telescopes;
- fostering co-operation in astronomy and astrophysics within Europe and Chile.

In addition to personal research, fellows in Garching spend up to 25% of their time on the support or development activities mentioned above. These activities offer the opportunity to make short-term visits to the ESO sites in Chile and to develop in-depth knowledge of the operations of the observatory. In Chile, fellows and staff astronomers spend one week at ESO's Centre in Santiago, one week at La Silla Observatory and have the third week off. At La Silla, fellows help in supporting visiting astronomers, and participate in the development and maintenance of the telescopes and instruments. The fellowship programme in Chile offers a unique opportunity to learn and to participate in the process of observational astronomy while pursuing a research programme with state-of-the-art facilities.

Applicants should have a recent doctorate. The basic monthly salary will be not less than DM 5526 to which is added an expatriation allowance of 9–12% in Garching, if applicable, and up to 40% in Chile. The fellowships are granted for one year with the expectation of a renewal for a second year and, for Chile only, exceptionally a third year. Fellowships begin between April and October of the year in which they are awarded. Applications should be submitted to ESO not later than October 15, 1996. Applicants will be notified in December 1996 or soon thereafter. The ESO Fellowship Application Form must be used, which is available directly from ESO or from <http://www.eso.org/adm/personnel/fellows>. The applicant should arrange for three letters of recommendation from persons familiar with his/her scientific work to be sent directly to ESO. These letters should reach ESO not later than October 15, 1996.

Further inquiries, requests for application forms, and completed applications should be addressed to:

European Southern Observatory
Fellowship Programme
Karl-Schwarzschild-Strasse 2
D-85748 Garching bei München
Germany

Mr. Gerhard Bachmann Retired

After more than 25 years at ESO, most of that time as Head of Administration, Mr. Gerhard Bachmann retired on May 31, 1996, just after his 65th birthday on May 24. Mr. Bachmann was born in Berlin, began his professional career in the "Senatsverwaltung" of Berlin and became in 1963 assigned to the NATO Organisation in France and Luxembourg. He came to ESO in October of 1970 and was appointed Head of Administration in December 1972, succeeding Mr. J. Bloemkolk.



Throughout his time at ESO, Mr. Bachmann has greatly contributed to the success of the Organisation. Council Members and other officials of the Member States have repeatedly stated how impressed they were by his diplomatic abilities and his thorough knowledge of the interaction of science and politics in the field of astronomy. He played an important role in the negotiations with Chile and explored a closer co-operation with EU. Inside ESO, he has ensured the smooth running of the Organisation's Administration, making certain that ESO has avoided unnecessary bureaucracy, yet adhered strictly to the Rules and Regulations which govern this international organisation.

All of us at ESO wish Mr. Bachmann a happy and healthy retirement, much of which we understand he will spend in his beautiful house in the south of France.

New ESO Proceedings Available

The Proceedings of the OSA/ESO topical Meeting on

Adaptive Optics

(ESO Conference and Workshop Proceedings No. 54)

have been published. The 542-p. volume, edited by M. Cullum, is available at a price of DM 80.- (prepayment required).

Payments have to be made to the ESO bank account 2102002 with Commerzbank München, or by cheque, addressed to the attention of

ESO, Financial Services,
Karl-Schwarzschild-Strasse 2,
D-85748 Garching bei München, Germany

New ESO Preprints

(February – June 1996)

SCIENTIFIC PREPRINTS

1131. J.K. Kotilainen et al.: Near-Infrared Line and Continuum Imaging of the Nuclear Starburst Region NGC 1808. *A&A*.
1132. E. Giallongo et al.: The Proximity Effect, the UV Background and the statistics of the Lyman-Alpha Lines at High Resolution. *ApJ*.
1133. J.-L. Starck et al.: Astronomical Image Compression Based on Noise Suppression. *PASP*.