ESO Fellowship Programme 1999

The European Southern Observatory (ESO) awards up to six postdoctoral fellowships tenable at the ESO Headquarters, located in Garching near Munich, and up to six postdoctoral fellowships tenable at ESO’s Astronomy Centre in Santiago, Chile. The ESO fellowship programme 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.

ESO facilities include the Very Large Telescope (VLT) Observatory on Cerro Paranal, the La Silla Observatory 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. The VLT consists of four 8-m diameter telescopes. First light for the first telescope is expected late May 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 Coordinating 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 Observatories offer research opportunities.

In addition to personal research, fellows spend a fraction of their time on follow-up of selected observations—both in Chile and at ESO headquarters. Selected fellows can choose one-third of their time to study data from ESO telescopes. They participate in the scientific community at the headquarters and in Chile. Some of the activities that the fellowship offers include:

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

In Garching, fellows are assigned for 25% of their time to an instrumentation group, a user support group or a telescope-operation team in Chile. The fellowships are granted for one year with the expectation of a renewal for a second year and exceptionally a third year.

In Chile, the fellowships are granted for one year with the expectation of a renewal for a second and third year. During the first two years, the fellows are assigned to a Paranal operations group or a La Silla telescope team. They support the astronomers at a level of 50% of their time, with 80 nights per year at either the Paranal or La Silla observatory and 35 days per year at the Santiago Office. During the third year, two options are provided. The fellows may be hosted by a Chilean institution and will thus be eligible to propose for Chilean observing time on all telescopes in Chile; they will not have any functional activity. The second option is to spend the third year in Garching where the fellows will then spend 25% of their time on support of functional activities.

The basic monthly salary will be not less than DM 4853 to which is added an expatriation allowance of 9–12% in Garching, if applicable, and up to 40% in Chile. The remuneration in Chile will be adjusted according to the cost of living differential between Santiago and the lead town Munich. The fellow will also have an annual travel budget for scientific meetings, collaborations and observing trips, of approximately DM 12,000.

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.

Applications must be made on the ESO Fellowship Application Form. The form is available either at URL http://www.eso.org/eis/adm/pers/vacant/fellow.html or from the address below. The applicant should arrange for three letters of recommendation from persons familiar with his/her scientific work to be sent directly to ESO. Applications and the three letters must reach ESO by October 15, 1998 (but not earlier than June 1998).

Completed applications should be addressed to:

European Southern Observatory
Fellowship Programme
Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2
D-85748 Garching bei München, Germany

Tel.: 0049-89-32006-438 or -219 — Fax: 0049-89-32006-497
e-mail: ksteneier@eso.org

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