



ESO

European Organization
for Astronomical
Research in the
Southern Hemisphere



ESO Studentship Programme

The European Southern Observatory research student programme aims at providing opportunities to enhance the Ph.D. 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 <http://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 Ph.D. programme at a university in an ESO member state or, exceptionally, at an institution outside 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 between one and 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 interests can be found at <http://www.eso.org/sci/activities/personnel.html>. A list of current Ph.D. projects offered by ESO staff is available at <http://www.eso.org/sci/activities/thesis-topics/>. It is highly recommended that the applicants start their Ph.D. studies at their home institute before continuing their Ph.D. work and developing observational expertise at ESO.

Students applying for the studentship programme should be ready both academically and personally. Spending time in a new environment can be both exciting and rewarding, but a very demanding experience. During the studentship in Santiago (Chile), there may be the opportunity to visit the

Observatories, aiming at giving the student insight into the observatory operations. The visit shall not interfere with the research project of the Student in Santiago.

Students who already enrolled in a Ph.D. programme in the Munich area (e.g. the International Max-Planck Research School on Astrophysics or 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 (<http://www.eso.org/public/employment/student.html>) provides some more details on employment conditions and benefits.

The closing date for applications is 15 June 2008.

Please attach to your application the following documents:

- 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 in English (but no translation is required for the certificates and diplomas).

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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. All reference letters shall be sent electronically to vacancy@eso.org.

Candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process in July 2008. 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).

Although recruitment preference will be given to nationals of ESO Member States (members are: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and United Kingdom) no nationality is in principle excluded.

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

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