



ESO

European Organisation
for Astronomical
Research in the
Southern Hemisphere



ESO Fellowship Programme 2011/2012

The European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere awards several postdoctoral fellowships each year. The goal of these fellowships is to offer young outstanding scientists opportunities and facilities to enhance their research programmes in close contact with the activities and staff at one of the world's foremost observatories.

In Garching, the fellowships start with an initial contract of one year followed by a two-year extension (3 years total). The ESO Headquarters in Garching near Munich, Germany, are situated in one of the most active research areas in Europe and have among the highest concentrations of astronomers. ESO offices are adjacent to the Max-Planck Institutes for Astrophysics and for Extraterrestrial Physics and only a few kilometres away from the Observatory of the Ludwig-Maximilian University. Additionally, ESO participates in the newly formed Excellence Cluster on Astrophysics on the Garching Campus, which brings together nearly 200 scientists to explore the origin and structure of the Universe. Consequently, ESO fellows in Garching have many opportunities to interact and collaborate with astronomers at neighbouring institutes.

In addition to the excellent scientific environment that will allow to develop their scientific skills, as part of the diverse training ESO offers, Garching fellows spend up to 25% of their time in some functional work related to instrumentation, operations support, archive/virtual observatory, VLT1, ALMA, ELT, public affairs, or science operations at the Observatory in Chile.

In Chile, the fellowships are granted for one year initially with an extension of three additional years (4 years total). During the first three years, the fellows are assigned to one of the operations groups on Paranal, ALMA or APEX. Fellows contribute to the operations at a level of 80 nights per year at the Observatory.

Apart from opportunities for scientific interactions within ESO, fellows have the opportunity to collaborate with the rapidly growing Chilean astronomical community as well as with astronomers at other international observatories located in Chile. The addition of a new ALMA building next to ESO's Santiago offices and the arrival of many astronomers and fellows working on the ALMA project has further enhanced the stimulating scientific environment available to ESO Chile fellows.

During the fourth year there is little or no functional work and several options are provided. The fellow may be hosted by a Chilean institution (and will thus have access to all telescopes in Chile via the Chilean observing time). Alternatively, she/he may choose to spend the fourth year either at ESO's astronomy centre in Santiago, or at the ESO Headquarters in Garching, or at any institute of astronomy/astrophysics in an ESO member state.

The programme is open to applicants who will have achieved their PhD in astronomy, physics or related discipline before 1 November, 2012. Young scientists from all astrophysical fields are welcome to apply. For all fellowships, scientific excellence is the prime selection criterion.

We offer an attractive remuneration package including a competitive salary and allowances (tax-free), comprehensive social benefits, and provide financial support for relocating families.

The closing date for applications is 15 October 2011.

Candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process between December 2011 and February 2012. Fellowships begin between April and October of the year in which they are awarded.

Please apply by completing the web application form available at <http://jobs.eso.org>. Applications must include:

- your Curriculum Vitae with a list of publications (ONLY published papers, NOT papers in preparation);
- your proposed research plan (maximum two pages);
- a brief outline of your technical/observational experience (maximum one page);

In addition three letters of reference from persons familiar with your scientific work should be sent directly to ESO to vacancy@eso.org by the application deadline.

For more information about the fellowship programme and ESO's astronomical research activities please see: <http://www.eso.org/sci/activities/FeSt-overview/ESOfellowship.html>. For a list of current ESO staff and fellows, and their research interests please see: <http://www.eso.org/sci/activities/personnel.html>. Details of the Terms of Service for fellows including details of remuneration are available at: <http://www.eso.org/public/employment/fellows.html>

For further general information about fellowship applications, please see our Frequently Asked Questions – FAQs: <http://www.eso.org/sci/activities/FeSt-overview/ESOfellowship-faq.html>. Questions not answered by the above FAQ page can be sent to:

For Garching:
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