

ESO La Silla Paranal Observatory: Summer Student Positions at the La Silla site

The Science Operations Department of the La Silla site of the ESO La Silla Paranal Observatory offers two positions for summer students. These positions are for a period of 2-3 months, which must take place between December and March. The work is performed during shifts of 8 days at the La Silla Observatory site, located 600km north of Santiago, followed by 6 days of rest. The summer students will be trained to assist the Telescope and Instrument Operators in the day-to-day operation of the New Technology Telescope, the ESO 3.6m and the ESO/MPI 2.2m telescopes.

The students will have the opportunity to learn the basic operation of the instruments and telescopes. Tasks include: defining and performing day-time calibrations, basic maintenance of the telescopes and instruments, instrument set-ups and data backup. According to interest and ability of the student, small projects may be assigned.

Candidates must be enrolled in a Chilean university and be Chilean nationals. They should be advanced in their studies of astronomy (or related fields) and should be able to prove their excellence by references. They are expected to show a strong motivation to work in an observatory environment. Some working experience with computers (ideally UNIX) is beneficial, as well as a basic level of communication in English. For successful applicants, the observatory will provide food and lodging at the site, as well as free transportation between Santiago and LaSilla.

A letter of motivation and a CV should be addressed (in English, electronically in ASCII or PDF) to Emanuela Pompei (epompei@eso.org) before Oct.15, 2005. Successful applicants will be notified by mid-November 2005.

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