

ESO Studentship Programme

The ESO 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/science/personnel/index.html> and <http://www.sc.eso.org/santiago/science/person.html>. A list of current Ph.D. projects offered by ESO staff is available at <http://www.eso.org/>

science/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.

In addition, the students in Chile have the opportunity to volunteer for as many as 40 days/night work per year at the La Silla Paranal Observatory. These duties are decided on a trimester by trimester basis, aiming at giving the student insight into the observatory operations and shall not interfere with the research project of the student in Santiago. The outline of the terms of service for students (<http://www.eso.org/gen-fac/adm/pers/student.html>) provides some more details on employment conditions and benefits.

The closing date for applications is **15 June 2006**.

Please apply by:

- (1) filling the form available at <http://www.eso.org/gen-fac/adm/pers/forms/student06-form.pdf>
- (2) and attaching to your application:
 - 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 one page, max. two).

- 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).

The application material has to be addressed to:

ESO Studentship Programme
Karl-Schwarzschild-Straße 2
85748 Garching bei München (Germany)

All material, including the recommendation letters, must reach ESO by the deadline (15 June 2006); applications arriving after the deadline or incomplete applications will not be considered!

Candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process in July 2006. 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 contact Christina Stoffer (cstoffer@eso.org).



This photo was obtained with the FORS2 instrument at ESO's Very Large Telescope. It zooms in on the open stellar cluster Haffner 18, perfectly illustrating three different stages of this process of star formation: In the centre of the picture, Haffner 18, a group of mature stars that have already dispersed their birth nebulae, represents the completed product or immediate past of the star-formation process. Located at the bottom left of this cluster, a very young star, just come into existence and, still surrounded by its birth cocoon of gas, provides insight into the very present of star birth. Finally, the dust clouds towards the right corner of the image are active stellar nurseries that will produce more new stars in the future. (ESO PR Photo 42b/05)