



ESO

European Organisation
for Astronomical
Research in the
Southern Hemisphere



ESO Studentship Programme

The research studentship programme of the European Southern Observatory provides an outstanding opportunity for PhD students to experience the exciting scientific environment at one of the world's leading observatories for a period of up to two years.

ESO is the foremost intergovernmental astronomy organisation in Europe. Its approximately 110 staff astronomers, 40 Fellows and 50 PhD students conduct frontline research in fields ranging from exoplanets to cosmology, offering one of the most vibrant and stimulating scientific settings anywhere in the world.

ESO's studentship positions are open to students enrolled in a PhD programme in astronomy or related fields. Students accepted into the programme work on their doctoral project under the formal supervision of their home university, but they come to ESO to work and study under the co-supervision of an ESO staff astronomer, normally for a period of between one and two years. Studentships may be hosted either at ESO's Headquarters in Garching (Germany) or at ESO's offices in Santiago (Chile), where two additional positions per year are provided for students enrolled in South American universities.

Applicants and their home institute supervisors should agree upon and coordinate their research project jointly with their prospective ESO supervisor. For this purpose the ESO supervisor should be contacted well in advance of the application deadline (15 June 2012). 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 PhD projects currently being offered by ESO staff is available at <http://www.eso.org/sci/activities/thesis-topics.html>.

It is highly recommended that applicants plan to start their PhD studies at their home institute before continuing to develop their research projects at ESO.

ESO Chile students have the opportunity to visit the observatories and to get involved in small technical projects aimed at giving insights into the observatory operations and instrumentation. Such involvement is also strongly encouraged for Garching students. In addition, students in Garching may attend and benefit from the series of lectures delivered in the framework of the International Max-Planck Research School on Astrophysics.

Students who are already enrolled in a PhD programme in the Munich area (e.g., at the International Max-Planck Research School on Astrophysics or a Munich University) and who wish to apply for an ESO studentship in Garching, should provide a compelling justification for their application.

The Outline of the Terms of Service for Students (<http://www.eso.org/public/employment/student.html>) provides some additional details on the employment conditions and benefits.

If you are interested in enhancing your PhD experience through an extended stay at ESO please apply online at <https://jobs.eso.org/>. Reference letters to support your application should be sent to vacancy@eso.org for Garching and vacchile@eso.org for Chile.

Please include the following documents in your application:

- a Curriculum Vitae (including a list of publications, if any);
- copies of your university transcript and certificate(s) or diploma(s);
- a summary of your master's thesis project (if applicable) and ongoing projects, indicating the title and the supervisor (maximum half a page);
- an outline of the proposed PhD project highlighting the advantages of coming to ESO (recommended one page, maximum two);
- two letters of reference, one from the home institute supervisor and one from the ESO local supervisor;
- a letter from the home institute that i) guarantees the financial support for the remaining PhD period after the termination of the ESO studentship, ii) indicates whether the requirements to obtain the PhD degree at the home institute have already been fulfilled.

All documents should be typed in English (but no translation is required for the certificates and diplomas).

Closing date for applications is 15 June 2012, and review of the application documents (including the recommendation letters) will begin immediately. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process during July–August 2012. Studentships typically begin between August and December of the following year.

For further information please contact Christina Stoffer (cstoffer@eso.org).

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

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

