My PhD thesis was dedicated to studying the stellar streams and overdensities present in this halo, observable from the southern hemisphere. These stellar substructures are relics of past accretion events from the formation history of the Milky Way. Most of the previously known stellar substructures were discovered from the north, while the southern sky remained relatively unexplored. In my thesis, I explored data collected by wide-field photometric surveys, like ATLAS, the ESO Public Survey carried out by the VLT Survey Telescope (VST), as well as variability and deep photometric surveys. I also proposed my own spectroscopic observations to detect, confirm and characterise several known and new stellar streams populating the southern skies, particularly around the Magellanic Clouds — the biggest satellite galaxies of our Galaxy, which also contain their own stellar substructure.

Choosing ESO was an easy decision, except for the fact that it is located in Santiago, where I have been for all of my career so far. Nonetheless, interacting with frequent visitors from all over the world, and working with colleagues from many countries, it is easy to forget that I am still in my home town. At ESO, I split my time between my own research, some outreach activities in Spanish for school students, and my duties at the VLT. There, I work as a support astronomer at the UT2 (Kueyen) telescope. I execute programmes on behalf of astronomers who want to observe with the Ultraviolet-Visual Echelle Spectrograph (UVES), and the X-shooter and the Fibre Large Array Multi Element Spectrograph (FLAMES), choosing them based on the weather conditions and scientific priorities, and checking in real time the quality of the data we acquire. I also support visiting astronomers who come to Paranal to carry out their observations. Working at Paranal can be tough as it involves night-time work for several nights in a row. However, it really pays off when you can see all the stars embedded in the Milky Way in the spectacular night sky.

Personnel Movements

Arrivals (1 January–31 March 2020)

Europe

Brazil, Fiona (UK)	Head of Human Resources
Davison, Thomas (UK)	Student
Engler, Byron (NZ)	Student
Héritier, Cédric Taïssir (FR)	Engineering and Technology Research Fellow
Scibior, Pawel (PL)	Electrical Engineer
Wegener, Anna-Lynn (DE)	Head of the Department of Communication

Chile

Arrue, Ricardo (CL)	Telescope Instruments Operator
Dullius Mallmann, Nicolas (BR)	Student
Duran, Carlos (CL)	Apex Station Manager
Houllé, Mathis (FR)	Student
Korhonen, Heidi Helena (FI)	Operations Staff Astronomer
Kundu, Richa (IN)	Student
Lagos, Felipe (CL)	Student
Lizana, Vincente (CL)	Software Engineer
Megevand, Vincent (CH)	Telescope Instruments Operator
Messias, Hugo (PT)	Astronomer
Montes, Vanessa (CL)	Systems Engineer
Pessi, Priscila (AR)	Student
Ramirez, Christian (CL)	Optical Coating Engineer
Uzundag, Murat (TR)	Student

Departures (1 January–31 March 2020)

Europe

Fiorellino, Eleonora (IT)	Student
Guglielmetti, Fabrizia (IT)	ALMA Pipeline Processing Analyst
Kabátová, Anežka (CZ)	Student

Chile

Abril Ibáñez, Javier (ES)	Student
Alonso, Jaime (CL)	Electronics Engineer
Bartlett, Elizabeth (UK)	Fellow
Ciechanowicz, Miroslaw (PL)	Head of Engineering group
Desbordes, Christine (FR)	Head of Logistics
Leclercq, Julien (FR)	Mechanical Engineer
Reyes, Claudia (CL)	Telescope Instruments Operator