



ISAAC NEWTON GROUP OF TELESCOPES LA PALMA, CANARY ISLANDS

Observing Support Assistant (interim position)

Ref: LSR05_18

Closing date: 04-12-2018

The Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes (ING) invites applications for a temporary position of Observing Support Assistant (OSA). The successful candidate will be part of a team supporting the ING's night time operations.

The ING (<http://www.ing.iac.es>), an establishment of the UK's Science and Technology Facilities Council, operates the 4.2m William Herschel Telescope (WHT) and the 2.5m Isaac Newton Telescope (INT) on behalf of the STFC, the Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek and the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias. The telescopes are located at the Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos (La Palma, Spain).

Our facilities are equipped with an extensive suite of imaging and spectrographic instrumentation which facilitate world-class astronomy. In addition, a high-performance multi-fibre spectrograph for the WHT (<http://www.ing.iac.es/weave>) is due for completion in 2020 and will be used for very large spectroscopic programmes.

Duties

- To operate the WHT in accordance with the requirements of visiting observers or ING staff astronomers, and to take responsibility for the safety of people and equipment during night-time observations at the WHT. To give support to INT observers when requested. On average, 8 full nights per month are worked by each OSA and this occupies around 80% of the OSA's time.
- The remaining 20% of the OSA's time will be spent carrying out varied duties in support of the ING's programme, usually during the daytime. These duties will include the initial training required to operate the telescope and instruments, which will fill all the OSA's time in the first few months, as well as ongoing training needed to keep up to date with technical modifications.

The OSA will be expected to work independently once fully trained, carrying out all duties in a safe and professional manner, following health and safety regulations and codes of practice. Exercising judgement and interpretation of situations based on training, knowledge and understanding of the operational requirements of the ING is fundamental.

Required Qualifications & Skills

- A degree in astronomy, engineering, physics or another relevant subject.

- At least one year of experience supporting observations at an optical/IR telescope. This requirement may be waived for an exceptional candidate.
- Ability to assess technical problems and find solutions or workarounds for problems involving a wide range of systems.
- Good IT skills, including familiarity with Windows and UNIX operating systems.
- Understanding of the working principals of telescopes and instruments.
- Awareness of and ability to provide solutions to Health and Safety issues.
- Ability to work quickly and accurately under pressure.
- Good teamwork skills.
- A flexible approach to working hours and conditions.
- Effective interpersonal skills.
- A full EU driving licence.
- Very good written and spoken English.
- Written and oral communication skills in Spanish would also be an advantage.

Applications

To apply, please send a completed application form in English, available [here](#), by email to recruit@ing.iac.es. The closing date for applications is December 4th at 01.00 pm. Interviews are expected to take place in early January.

Submitted information will not be returned but will be held by the ING in accordance with these [data protection guidelines](#).

Contractual information

This is a temporary position regulated by the bargaining agreement between the ING and its local staff. The contract will be for 7 months initially with the likelihood of an extension to one year or more.

Candidates should be available to take up the position at the latest within one month of an offer being made.

The appointment will be at Grade C. The annual salary will be €31,988.79, supplemented by a 31% paid on 12 of the 16 annual payments, as compensation for weekends or bank holidays, giving a total annual salary of €39,426.17.

Further information

Information related to the terms and conditions of this post is available from ING's Head of Administration, Juanjo Herrera: juanjo@ing.iac.es

Further information on this position is available from the Head of OSAs, Fiona Riddick: fiona@ing.iac.es.

ING is fully committed to equality of opportunity in the workplace.