



ISAAC NEWTON GROUP OF TELESCOPES LA PALMA, CANARY ISLANDS

Observing Support Assistant (temporary, part-time position)

Ref: LSR01_21

Closing date: 07-01-2021

The Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes (ING) invites applications for a temporary, part-time position of Observing Support Assistant (OSA), to form part of a team supporting the ING's night-time operations.

The ING consists of the 4.2-m William Herschel Telescope (WHT) and the 2.5-m Isaac Newton Telescope (INT), located at the Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos on the island of La Palma in the Canary Islands, 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 currently being constructed and tested and will soon be used for very large spectroscopic programmes.

Duties

- To operate the WHT according to the requirements of ING staff astronomers or visiting observers, and to take responsibility for the safety of people and equipment, during night-time observations at the WHT. In addition, the OSA will provide support to INT observers when requested. On average, the OSA can expect to work a total of about 8 full nights per month on this main duty, including weekends and public holidays, and this will occupy 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 telescopes and instruments. Once fully trained, the OSA will be allocated projects fitted to the ING's requirements, taking into account as much as possible their skills and interests.

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.

Essential Qualifications & Experience

- A degree in astronomy or another closely-related subject.
- Experience carrying out observations at a medium-sized optical telescope.

- Ability to assess a wide range of technical problems and find solutions or workarounds.
- Good IT skills, including familiarity with Windows and UNIX operating systems.
- Awareness of and ability to provide solutions to Health and Safety issues.
- Ability to work quickly and accurately under pressure, especially at night.
- Good teamwork and communication skills.
- Very good written and spoken English.
- Ability to work effectively at an altitude of 2400m.
- A full EU driving licence.

Desirable Qualifications & Experience

- A masters degree or doctorate in astronomy.
 - Work experience supporting observations at an optical telescope.
 - Understanding of the working principals of telescopes and instruments.
 - Spanish
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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 January 7th at 12:00h (WEST). Interviews are expected to take place on January 13th on Zoom.

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.

Contractual information

This is a temporary, part-time position regulated by the bargaining agreement between the ING and its local staff.

Candidates should be available to take up the position by February 1st 2021 if possible.

The appointment will be at Grade C. The annual salary for a full time OSA is €39,426.18, which includes a 31% bonus for working at night, weekends and public holidays.