



Observing Support Assistant

ISAAC NEWTON GROUP OF TELESCOPES LA PALMA, CANARY ISLANDS

Ref: LSR01_23 (internal, part time) Closing date: 12:00 WEST 10-07-2023

As part of WEAVE commissioning and scientific operations, the ING invites internal applications for the post of Observing Support Assistant (OSA), in a part time basis (**50% FTE**). The OSA will join the OSA Team in the Astronomy group.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE POST

The main responsibilities of this post are:

- 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 4 full nights (8 full nights for a 100% FTE) 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.

SHORTLISTING CRITERIA

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 master's degree or doctorate in astronomy.
 - Work experience supporting observations at an optical telescope.
 - Understanding of the working principals of telescopes and instruments.
 - Spanish
-

CONTRACTUAL INFORMATION

This will be a permanent, full-time appointment at Grade C on the local pay scale and raised to C+ to compensate for night and weekend work. The appointment is subject to a probation period of 6 months.

APPLICATIONS

To apply for this post, use the standard ING external job [application form](#), and fill in:

- Box 1: personal details.
- Box 10 on page 4: why are you interested in the post and indicate the relevance of your qualifications and experience to the job.
- You may optionally fill in box 9 (career history) if you believe the information strengthens your candidacy.

Applications must be sent to recruit@ing.iac.es

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.

The closing date for internal applications is 12:00 (WEST) on the 10th July 2023.