



ESO

European Organization
for Astronomical
Research in the
Southern Hemisphere



For the Instrumentation Division at the Headquarters in Garching near Munich, Germany, ESO is opening the position of an

Instrument Scientist

Career Path: V

Purpose of the Job

The post of Instrument Scientist is within the Instrumentation Projects Department. The successful candidate will work as part of one or more teams responsible for the development of optical and infrared (IR) instruments for the VLT and VLTI at the La Silla Paranal Observatory, and for instrumentation studies for the future E-ELT. Some of the instruments are constructed in-house but the majority is wholly or partially sub-contracted to consortia of European institutes.

Responsibilities and Working Environment

The Instrumentation Projects Department is part of the ESO Instrumentation Division, and has been formed from a recent merger of the existing optical and IR instrumentation departments. You will report directly to the Head of the Instrumentation Projects Department.

Your main duties and responsibilities include:

- Active participation in new instrument definition and selection.
- Following project progress and ensuring performance meets specifications.
- Leading specific tasks such as developing calibration and commissioning plans, preparation of the user manual and guiding work on the reduction pipeline software.

- Contributing to the instrument testing in Europe and commissioning at the observatory and supporting the initial phase of scientific operation.
- Conducting original scientific research as a member of the astronomy faculty of ESO.

Qualifications

PhD in Astronomy, Physics, or equivalent.

Experience

You should have at least 5 years of post-PhD experience in observational astronomy at large telescopes and a proven track record of scientific research.

Additionally, you should also have experience in the design, construction or operational supervision of astronomical instrumentation.

Familiarity with spectroscopy and/or adaptive optics would be an advantage and knowledge of the instrument environment at La Silla Paranal Observatory would be an asset.

Excellent communication skills and a very good knowledge of English are essential.

Key Competences

- Strives for continuous improvement of own performance and encourages others to do likewise.
- Is flexible and adapts quickly to new ways of working or new responsibilities.
- Builds and manages collaborative working relationships with customers and stakeholders.



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- Balances conflicting demands and responds quickly to changes in priorities in-line with agreed overall objectives.

Duty Station: Garching near Munich, Germany. Occasional trips to the observatories in Chile may be required.

Starting Date: As soon as possible.

Remuneration and Contract:

We offer an attractive remuneration package including a competitive salary (tax free), comprehensive pension scheme and medical, educational and other social benefits, as well as financial support in relocating your family, the possibility to place your child/children in daycare up to the age of 3.

The initial contract is for a period of three years with the possibility of a fixed-term or indefinite extension based on scientific, technical and managerial achievements. The title or grade may be subject to change according to qualification and the number of years of experience. Promotions will be based on scientific as well as functional achievements.

Application: If you are interested in working in areas of frontline technology and in a stimulating international environment, please visit (<http://www.eso.org>) for further details.

Applicants are invited to apply online at <https://jobs.eso.org/>. Applications must be completed in English and should include a motivation letter and CV.

Closing date for applications is 06 April 2009.

The position requires three letters of reference to be sent to vacancy@eso.org.

Although recruitment preference will be given to nationals of ESO Member States (members are: Austria, Belgium, 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 male female applicants.