



ESO

European Organization
for Astronomical
Research in the
Southern Hemisphere



For the Atacama Pathfinder EXperiment (APEX)
ESO is opening the position of a

Staff Astronomer

Career Path: V

Purpose of the Job

S/he will join a team of scientists, engineers, and technicians, in total 20 people, responsible for the operation and maintenance of the antenna support observations in service mode, to develop calibration and quality control procedures for the instruments, to control the configuration of the system, and to develop operational procedures for the telescope including pointing models. The Science Operations team will consist of staff astronomers, fellows and telescope operators.

Responsibilities and Working Environment

As an astronomer, the successful candidate will be expected and encouraged to actively conduct astronomical research up to 20% of the time using APEX and other facilities. The APEX astronomers spend 135 nights per year carrying out functional duties in the APEX base in Sequitor and at the telescope, which is located on Chajnantor at an altitude of 5.000m, usually in a shift of 8 days in Sequitor with trips to Chajnantor, followed by 6 days off. The rest of their time is spent in the Santiago office. Scientific trips and stays at other institutions, also in Europe, are foreseen.

APEX is a sub-mm telescope presently operative at the ALMA site of Chajnantor in Chile through a collaboration between the Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie, Onsala Space Observatory and ESO. The site is excellent for sub-mm observations, and the telescope is equipped with heterodyne receivers and bolometer arrays for observations at sub-mm wavelengths as well as in the THz band.

Qualifications

The position requires a Ph.D. in Astronomy, Physics or equivalent.

Experience

APEX is seeking an active staff astronomer with a solid publication record in observational astronomy. Operational experience with (sub)mm telescopes is highly appreciated. Postdoctoral experience is highly welcome.

Key Competences

An excellent communication skills and a good command of the English language (spoken and written) will be required, willingness to learn Spanish is welcome

Duty Station: San Pedro de Atacama (base camp), Chajnantor (antenna site) and Santiago, Chile. Aptness to work in high altitude and a positive medical certificate will be required prior to a contract offer.

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, and economical support for your child/children in daycare/school starting from 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 technical and managerial achievements. The title or grade may be subject to change according to qualification and the number of years of experience.



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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 April 30, 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.