



ISAAC NEWTON GROUP OF TELESCOPES LA PALMA, CANARY ISLANDS

Observing Support Assistant

Ref: LSR01_12

Closing date: 12-02-2012

The Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes (ING) invites applications for the post of Observing Support Assistant (OSA) to be part of a team supporting our 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), one of the best astronomical sites in the world.

Our facilities are equipped with an extensive suite of imaging and spectrographic instrumentation which facilitate world class astronomy. In addition to this, a high-performance multi-fibre spectrograph for the WHT (<http://www.ing.iac.es/weave>) is being planned, aimed at large spectroscopic programmes.

We are seeking an enthusiastic individual to join the OSA Group and contribute to both the operations and productivity of the WHT. As an OSA you will ensure that the telescope is aligned with the proper coordinates and receiving light from the correct part of the sky so that the astronomers can carry out their science. This post is ideally suited to an individual who is looking for opportunities to work in a challenging, operational environment and who is capable of delivering a high-standard of service to visiting astronomers.

Duties

The successful candidate will work as part of a dedicated team supporting the night-time activities of the WHT. The ability to exercise discretion and judgement in making decisions, the impact of which will frequently affect the overall performance of the ING, is paramount.

Where necessary, candidates will receive appropriate training but will be expected to work independently, developing the role and will be responsible for:

- Operating efficiently the William Herschel Telescope
- Troubleshooting, when problems arise
- Providing assistance to visiting observers at the WHT (and sometimes the INT), when required
- Assuming responsibility for the safety of both individuals and equipment during night-time observing

In addition to the above, OSAs are expected to spend 20% of their time carrying out daytime duties in support of the ING's programmes. These duties are usually aligned with the post holder's skills and experience although training (in a range of disciplines) can be provided.

Qualifications

- Preferred candidates will possess a degree in a relevant science or engineering discipline

Knowledge and Experience

The following would be advantageous but not essential:

- A background in astronomy
- A basic understanding of mechanics, electronics or optics
- Experience of working in an astronomical environment

Skills

Essential

The successful candidate will:

- Have a demonstrable, analytical approach to solving problems
- Have an understanding of coordinate systems
- Have well-developed IT skills, including a working knowledge of the Windows and/or UNIX operating systems
- Have an understanding of astronomical nomenclature
- Be able to demonstrate good teamwork skills
- Possess strong time management and organisational skills
- Demonstrate an open and flexible approach to the working environment
- Have an ability to work under pressure whilst being focussed
- Be able to exercise good judgement in addressing non-technical problems such as Health and Safety issues

- Possess effective interpersonal relationship skills

Desirable

For this appointment, the following skills will also be taken into consideration:

- The ability to communicate effectively in both Spanish and English
- The ability to understand the working principles complex equipment and operate it

Contractual information

This is a permanent position regulated by the bargaining agreement between the ING and its local staff. The appointment will be at Grade C1. The post attracts a salary allowance of 31% of the basic salary (excluding extra payments).

Applicants from outside the EU need to be in possession of both residence and work permits, which are valid for Spain.

Applications

To apply please send a completed application form, available at www.ing.iac.es/About-ING/Vacancies/vacancies1.html, by email: recruit@ing.iac.es. The closing date for applications is 12th of February 2012.

Information related to the terms and conditions of this post is available from ING's Head of Administration, Mr Juan Martínez juan@ing.iac.es.

Further information

Further information on this position is available from ING's Head of Operations, Mr Jürg Rey juerg@ing.iac.es.

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