



ISAAC NEWTON GROUP OF TELESCOPES
LA PALMA, CANARY ISLANDS

Observing Support Assistant (interim position)

Ref: LSR03_17

Closing date: 23-06-2017

The Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes (ING) invites applications for an interim position of Observing Support Assistant (OSA) to cover a temporary absence in the OSA group. The successful candidate will be part of a team supporting the ING 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).

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 due for completion in 2018 and will be used for very large spectroscopic programmes.

Duties

The main duties of this post are:

- To provide an expert service in operating the WHT in accordance with the requirements of the visiting observers or ING staff astronomers, and to take responsibility for the safety of people and equipment (telescope and instruments) during night-time observations at the WHT. On average, 8 full nights per month are worked by each OSA and this occupies around 80% of the OSA's time.
- The remaining 20% of the OSA's time will be spent carrying out varied daytime duties in support of the ING's programme. These duties will be designated by the Head of OSAs, and will include the training required to keep up to date with technical modifications of the telescopes and instruments.

To achieve these main duties, 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.

Qualifications & Skills

Essential

Candidates should possess:

- A degree in astronomy, engineering, physics or another relevant discipline. Suitable experience may be substituted for formal qualifications in exceptional circumstances.
- An analytical approach to assessing and solving problems and an ability to provide potential solutions or workarounds for problems involving a wide range of systems.
- Well-developed IT skills, including a working knowledge of the Windows and UNIX operating systems.
- Ability to understand the working principals of complex and delicate equipment (telescopes and instruments).
- The ability to exercise good judgement to provide adequate solutions to non-technical problems such as Health and Safety issues.
- Ability to work fast under pressure whilst remaining focussed.
- Effective written and oral communication skills in English.
- Good teamwork skills.
- An open and flexible approach to working conditions and environment.
- Effective interpersonal skills.
- A full EU driving licence.

Desirable

- A background in astronomy, including an understanding of coordinate systems and optical and infrared observing techniques.
- A basic understanding of mechanics, electronics or optics.
- Experience of working in an astronomical environment at a remote observatory site.
- Effective written and oral communication skills in Spanish.

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 June 23rd.

Information related to the terms and conditions of this post is available from ING's Head of Administration, Juan Martínez (juan@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 an interim position regulated by the bargaining agreement between the ING and its local staff.

Candidates are expected to be available to take up the position by August 1st.

The appointment will be at Grade C, and the annual gross basic salary will be 31.358 Euro. In addition, the post attracts a salary allowance of 31% of the gross basic salary (extra payments excluded).