



**ISAAC NEWTON GROUP OF TELESCOPES**  
Roque de Los Muchachos Observatory, La Palma

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY FOR OBSERVING TIME  
IN SEMESTER 2021A: 1<sup>st</sup> February – 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2021**

**\*\*\* INT only \*\*\***

1. Status of the ING telescopes, WHT/WEAVE and INT
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**1. Status of the ING telescopes, WHT/WEAVE and INT**

An update on the status of the ING instrumentation programme is given on:

<http://www.ing.iac.es/astronomy/instr.html>

and a summary is provided below.

At the WHT, following WEAVE integration and commissioning in late 2020B, we will roll into science verification, and the start of WEAVE surveys, as the 2021A semester progresses. Therefore, no WHT open-time is currently being offered in 2021A.

After commissioning of WEAVE, a long-term average of 70% of the time available at the WHT will be devoted to the WEAVE surveys. The remaining 30% of time will be available for non-survey observing with the current Cassegrain instruments (ISIS, LIRIS, ACAM) or with visiting instruments, or with WEAVE itself.

ING has a strong interest in offering WEAVE in open time. If commissioning is successfully completed by 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021, we will formally offer WEAVE in open-time in the announcement of opportunity for 21B. If commissioning is not completed by that date, we will delay the call for open-time WEAVE proposals, following ING's policy of only offering fully-commissioned instruments. A special WEAVE open-time call in mid-21B will be considered.

At the INT, time is offered as usual in 2021A (see the link at the start of this section for advice about likely changes starting in 2021B).

The remainder of this document relates to applications for time on the INT only.

**2. Proposal submission and deadlines**

Information about applying for time on the [2.5-m Isaac Newton Telescope \(INT\)](#) can be found on:

[http://www.ing.iac.es/astronomy/observing/INGinfo\\_home.html](http://www.ing.iac.es/astronomy/observing/INGinfo_home.html)

Principal Investigators (PIs) employed or studying in a Dutch, Spanish or UK institution at the time of submission should submit their proposal(s) to the Dutch, Spanish or UK TAC respectively. PIs hosted by other countries, and Dutch, Spanish or UK PIs wishing to submit a proposal to a TAC other than that of their host country, should refer to the information provided by the relevant TAC.

Advice on how to submit proposals, and submission deadlines, are provided by each TAC:

- Netherlands (PC)** <https://www.nwo.nl/en/funding/our-funding-instruments/enw/isaac-newton-group-of-telescopes/isaac-newton-group-of-telescopes.html>  
Deadline: 24 September (at 12:00 UT).
- Spain (CAT)** <http://www.iac.es/OOCC/night-cat/>  
Deadline: 2 October (at 21:59 UT)
- UK (PATT)** Form: [http://www.ing.iac.es/astronomy/observing/patt/PATT\\_Appl.html](http://www.ing.iac.es/astronomy/observing/patt/PATT_Appl.html)  
Travel grants: <http://www.stfc.ac.uk/funding/research-grants/funding-opportunities/applying-for-time-on-stfc-astronomy-facilities/>  
Secretary: patt\_sec@ing.iac.es  
Deadline: 15 September (at 24:00 UT).

Requests for observations which are likely to enhance exploitation of the upcoming surveys with [WEAVE](#), e.g. pre-imaging, are particularly welcome.

Potential visiting observers should acquaint themselves [with ING's Covid-19 regulations on this topic](#)

### 3. Instrumentation

Information about the instruments available at the INT (IDS and WFC) is linked from:

<http://www.ing.iac.es/astronomy/observing/instruments.html>

Please direct any queries about individual instruments to the relevant ING instrument specialists (contact details on the above link).

### 4. Observer support at the telescope

A summary of the observer support available at the INT can be found on:

<http://www.ing.iac.es/astronomy/planning/support.html>

Astronomical support will be provided during the first evening, and part of the first night, of each INT run and will include an introduction to the telescope, instrumentation and data-acquisition systems, and safety issues. The support astronomer (SA) will be on-call at the Residencia throughout the first night. The WHT Observing Support Assistant (OSA) provides additional all-night, year-round support on-site.

Manual changes to the configuration of an instrument during an observing run (e.g. installation of a filter or grating) will be accommodated if they were explicitly specified in the observing proposal, and confirmed with the SA well in advance of the run. These changes will be made by ING staff, and must not be made by visiting observers. At the INT, such changes can only be made during the day, when appropriately-trained staff can be made available. Requests for configuration changes not specified in the telescope proposal will be handled on a best-efforts basis.

Each PI will be contacted by the SA about one month in advance of observing, to confirm the instrument configuration, discuss the observing plan, etc.

It may be possible for some programmes to be observed in service mode, through collaboration with the INT student support astronomers (available on a volunteer basis only). Any additional costs incurred (residencia charges, etc.) will be borne by the PI. PIs who are interested in such [service-mode observing](#) at the INT should contact the INT manager Cecilia Fariña ([cf@ing.iac.es](mailto:cf@ing.iac.es)).

### 5. Observer experience

Inexperienced INT observers must be accompanied by an experienced observer. 'Inexperienced' here means unable, alone, to make efficient (and safe) use of the observing night, whether from general lack of observing experience, or from lack of experience with the specific techniques to be used. This lack of experience will not adequately be compensated by the start-of-run training provided by observatory support staff.

In addition, it is essential that INT observers have considerable end-to-end observing experience with medium-sized telescopes. As there is no observing support assistant at the INT, observers are responsible

for all aspects of operation, from opening the dome in the evening, and operating the telescope and instrumentation throughout the night, to parking the telescope and closing the dome at the end of the night or in the event of deteriorating weather conditions.

ING relies on supervisors of students, and experienced members of proposing teams, to ensure that less-experienced observers prepare adequately for their observing runs, before travelling to La Palma.

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