



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

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY FOR OBSERVING TIME  
IN SEMESTER 2021B: 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2022**

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

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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, it's planned that WEAVE integration and commissioning in mid-2021 will be followed by science verification and the start of the WEAVE surveys.

ING will offer WEAVE in open time once WEAVE is successfully commissioned. At present, no such time is being offered in 2021B, but after commissioning, a special WEAVE open-time call in mid-2021B will be considered.

The ITP (International Time Programme) offers a limited opportunity for shared-risk observations with WEAVE to proposers with knowledge about the use of the instrument (see ITP link in Section 2 below).

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)** <http://www.ing.iac.es/astronomy/observing/21Bnlpc.html>

Deadline: 21 April (at 13:00 CEST).

**Spain (CAT)** <http://www.iac.es/OOCC/night-cat/>

Deadline: 11 April (at 21:59 UT)

**UK (PATT)** Form: [http://www.ing.iac.es/astromy/observing/patt/PATT\\_Apl.html](http://www.ing.iac.es/astromy/observing/patt/PATT_Apl.html)  
Travel grants: <http://www.stfc.ac.uk/funding/research-grants/funding-opportunities/applying-for-time-on-stfc-astromy-facilities/>  
Secretary: patt\_sec@ing.iac.es  
Deadline: 15 March (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.

Some observing time can also be obtained via the International Time Programme (ITP), see below for information about how to apply:

**ITP** <http://www.iac.es/en/observatorios-de-canarias/international-scientific-committee>  
Deadline: 28 February (midnight)

### 3. Instrumentation

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

<http://www.ing.iac.es/astromy/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

For visitor-mode observing, 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. A summary of the observer support can be found on:

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

In response to the current pandemic situation, and associated travel restrictions, the ING has increased its capacity to carry out regular INT programmes in service mode. Science teams that are unable to send an observer to the INT because of the pandemic, may request service-mode observing. This request should be made at least one month before the start of the run. More information about this can be found on:

[http://www.ing.iac.es/astromy/telescopes/int/service\\_observations\\_Covid19.html](http://www.ing.iac.es/astromy/telescopes/int/service_observations_Covid19.html)

Any questions about service-mode observing at the INT can be addressed to the INT manager Cecilia Fariña ([cf@ing.iac.es](mailto:cf@ing.iac.es)).

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. 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.

### 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.

Marc Balcells, Director ING ([director@ing.iac.es](mailto:director@ing.iac.es))

Chris Benn, Head of Astronomy ([crb@ing.iac.es](mailto:crb@ing.iac.es))

15th February 2021