



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

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY FOR OBSERVING TIME

**William Herschel Telescope:
1st November, 2023 – 30th April, 2024 (Trimesters 23B2 and 24A1)**

**Isaac Newton Telescope:
1st August, 2023 – 31st January, 2024 (Semester 23B)**

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1 WEAVE available (LIFU mode)

The ING is pleased to announce the availability of WEAVE, the new multi-fibre spectrograph, for open-time observations in semester 23B.

Proposals are invited for observations with WEAVE's large integral-field unit (LIFU), following ING's policy of offering instruments once they have been successfully commissioned. While a few LIFU commissioning tests are still in progress, data gathered so far indicates that the instrument is ready to provide science-quality data.

ING's goal is to be able to offer other WEAVE modes soon, through special calls if needed, once their commissioning is successfully completed.

Prospective proposers are encouraged to review the WEAVE open-time rules in Sec. 4 of

https://www.ing.iac.es/astronomy/ingman037_WHTtime_v2.0.pdf

The most salient aspects are summarised below.

The characteristics of the WEAVE instrument are given in

<https://www.ing.iac.es/astronomy/instruments/weave/weaveinst.html>

where a link to instrument performance results and issues is maintained by ING.

Prospective proposers should note that, at least in this first call, WEAVE semesters will differ from the semester pattern typically followed by ING. Thus, WEAVE proposals are invited for the second trimester of semester 23B (referred to as 23B1) and the first trimester of 24A (24A1). This shift is imposed by the long lead time for preparation of the WEAVE observing blocks.

Hence, WEAVE programmes are sought for the dates

1 November 2023 to 30 April 2024

Approximately 480 hours, or 30% of the available WHT night time in the semester, are offered for open-time proposals, following the standard UK, Dutch and Spanish shares.

All of the open time in this period will be for using WEAVE; no instrument changes are planned in the coming year.

All WEAVE open-time observations in this semester will be queue-driven and will be done in service mode, sharing nights with the WEAVE surveys. ING welcomes astronomers from the teams of successful PIs being at the telescope during WEAVE observing nights, but note that there's little chance of their own observations being carried out during their visit. Such visits should be organised well in advance in consultation with ING.

WEAVE open-time data will be processed with the standard WEAVE pipelines at CASU. All raw and processed data will be made available to the PI teams through the WEAVE archive.

Following the WEAVE Data Policy agreed between ING and the WEAVE Surveys, prospective PIs should note that the surveys do not have reserved targets, or reserved science topics. However, any data which preempt or replicate survey data will be made available immediately to archive users in the same way as WEAVE survey data, and will be assigned a proprietary period corresponding to survey data.

2 Proposal submission and deadlines

Information about applying for time can be found on:

https://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 time-allocation committee (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/calls/isaac-newton-group-telescopes-23b>
Deadline: 11 April 2023 (at 14:00 CEST).

Spain (CAT) <http://www.iac.es/OOCC/night-cat/>
Deadline: 3 April 2023 (at 21:59 UT)

UK (PATT) Form: https://www.ing.iac.es/astronomy/observing/patt/PATT_Appl.html
Travel grants:
<https://www.stfc.ac.uk/funding/research-grants/funding-opportunities/applying-for-time-on-stfc-astronomy-facilities/>
Secretary: patt_sec@ing.iac.es
Deadline: 15 March 2023 (at 24:00 UT).

Access through the CCI International Time Programme (ITP) of the Canarian Observatories has been announced elsewhere, and we provide the link here for completeness:

ITP Canarian Observatories https://www.ing.iac.es/astronomy/observing/CCI_ITP2023-2024_Call_For_Proposals.pdf
Deadline: 28 February 2023 (at midnight CET).

3 Special form for WEAVE proposals

For WEAVE, proposals for observations, on all of the TACs, must be submitted via the ING submission platform at

<http://c.ing.iac.es/service/ph1.php?WEAVE>

by the deadline listed above for the relevant TAC.

Note that for INT proposals, applicants should continue to use the normal forms as advertised by their national TACs.

4 ING instrumentation updates

Details about the status of the ongoing developments in the instrumentation suite at the WHT and INT can be found on:

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

Information about the instruments is linked from:

<https://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).

5 Observer support at the INT

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:

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

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.

6 INT service mode observing

It may be possible for some programmes to be observed in service mode, through collaboration with the INT student support astronomers. 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).

7 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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17th February 2023