



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

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY FOR OBSERVING TIME
IN SEMESTER 2023A: 1st February – 31st July, 2023**

***** 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>

At the WHT, once WEAVE is successfully commissioned, ING will make an announcement about the availability of open time. At present, no such time is being offered in 2023A, but a special WEAVE open-time call in mid-2023A will be considered. 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

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/calls/isaac-newton-group-telescopes-23a>
Deadline: 27 September 2022 (at 14:00 CET).

Spain (CAT) <http://www.iac.es/OOCC/night-cat/>
Deadline: 3 October 2022 (at 21:59 UT)

UK (PATT) Form: 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 2022 (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.

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>

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. Covid-19 regulations

In semester 23A the INT is expected to operate in normal visitor mode. Safety measures to address Covid-19 risks will be adjusted as the pandemic situation changes, and will always be posted on

<https://ingconfluence.ing.iac.es:8444/confluence/display/INGPublic/Covid-19+procedures+for+visiting+astronomers+and+contractors>

Measures may include restrictions on the maximum number of persons allowed to work in the control room.

6. 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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16th August 2022