



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

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY FOR OBSERVING TIME
IN SEMESTER 2019A: 1st February – 31st July, 2019**

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1. Proposal submission and deadlines

Information about applying for time on the [4.2-m William Herschel Telescope \(WHT\)](#) and 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. Proposers who qualify for OPTICON trans-national access time (see later in this section) are encouraged to submit their proposals directly to OPTICON.

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

Netherlands (PC) <http://www.nwo.nl/financiering/onze-financieringsinstrumenten/ew/isaac-newton-group-of-telescopes/isaac-newton-group-of-telescopes.html>

Deadline: 22 September (at 12:00 UT, i.e. 14:00 NL local time).

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

Deadline: 2 October (at 22:59 UT, i.e. 23:59 Canary Islands local time).

UK (PATT) <http://www.stfc.ac.uk/funding/research-grants/funding-opportunities/applying-for-time-on-stfc-astronomy-facilities/>

PATT form: http://www.ing.iac.es/astronomy/observing/patt/PATT_Appl.html

Deadline: 15 September (at 24:00 UT, i.e. 01:00 Canary Islands local time, 16 September).

For both the WHT and INT (and particularly the INT) applicants are encouraged to submit proposals for large time allocations. The Dutch, Spanish and UK TACs are all willing to consider multi-semester allocations.

Requests for observations which are likely to enhance exploitation of the upcoming surveys with [WEAVE](#) (new 1000-fibre multi-object spectrograph, at the WHT from late 2019), e.g. pre-imaging, are also particularly welcome.

In addition to the national TACs, there exist two other channels for obtaining time: ITP (International Time Programme) and OPTICON:

ITP <http://www.iac.es/eno.php?op1=5&op2=13&lang=en>

Deadline: 28 February (23:59 UT)

OPTICON <http://www.astro-opticon.org/h2020/tna/>

Deadline: 2 September (23:59 UT)

The International Time Programme (ITP) makes up to 5% of the time on the telescopes available for allocation to international teams requiring substantial amounts of time to carry out major research projects. Each project must benefit from time obtained on more than one La Palma telescope.

The OPTICON scheme fosters pan-European access to the ING telescopes. OPTICON time is available to eligible astronomers based in EU member states and associated states, and EC funding may be available to cover travel, accommodation and subsistence costs. International proposals which meet OPTICON's criteria of eligibility, but which are submitted to and awarded telescope time by the national TACs, do not qualify for OPTICON financial support.

2. Instrumentation

Most of the current ING instrumentation will continue to be offered in the run-up to deployment of new instruments at the WHT (WEAVE) and INT (HARPS-3), and indeed the core suite of work-horse WHT instruments (ISIS, LIRIS, ACAM) will continue to be available during the era of the WEAVE survey. Information about instrumentation and planned stand-down periods in the transition to WEAVE are given on the following link, and we encourage prospective users to check it for up-to-date news:

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

The instruments currently available on the WHT and INT are shown on:

<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).

Applicants wishing to submit proposals to use an established visitor instrument on the WHT should in the first instance contact the relevant person on the above link.

PIs considering a proposal to deploy a visitor instrument which is new to the WHT should email the ING Director (Marc Balcells, director@ing.iac.es) well in advance of the proposal deadlines stating their intent, and should also submit a Technical Appraisal form. Further information on the protocol to be followed for submitting proposals to deploy new visitor instruments, and a link to the Technical Appraisal form, are available on:

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

Nasmyth visiting instruments are mounted on the GRACE Nasmyth platform.

3. Observer support at the telescope

A summary of the observer support available at the WHT and 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 WHT and INT run (apart from runs with established visiting instruments), 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 all-night, year-round operator and engineering support at the telescope.

Manual changes to the configuration of an instrument during an observing run (e.g. installation of a filter, dichroic 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 either the WHT or INT. At the WHT, such changes can also be made during the night by the OSA (but may incur significant observing overheads). 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.

At the INT, 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).

4. Observer experience

Inexperienced WHT and 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 student supervisors, 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)
Chris Benn, Head of Astronomy (crb@ing.iac.es)
16th August 2018