



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

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY FOR OBSERVING TIME
IN SEMESTER 2020A: 1st February – 31st July, 2020**

***** At the WHT, only WEAVE science-verification proposals are invited
(see Section 1) *****

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1. Status of the WHT

Time at the WHT during 2020A will be devoted to the commissioning of WEAVE, science verification, and the start of the WEAVE surveys, see:

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

Although no WHT non-survey time will be offered to the community during 2020A, ING does invite proposals from the community for a few 10s of hours of the WEAVE science-verification time, in particular to allow testing of instrumental modes that are not being exploited by the WEAVE surveys. A separate announcement of opportunity about this will be made during August 2019.

Once WEAVE is commissioned, an average of 70% of the time 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. This ('open time') access to WEAVE will be detailed in the relevant future announcements of opportunity.

At the INT, time is offered as usual during 2020A (see the link at the start of this section for advice about likely changes starting in 2020B). 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. 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>

Spain (CAT) <http://www.iac.es/OOCC/night-cat/>
Deadline: 2 October 2019 (at 21:59 UT).

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).

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](#), e.g. pre-imaging, are also particularly welcome.

In addition to the national TACs, there are 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 applicant's local time)

OPTICON <http://www.astro-opticon.org/h2020/tna/>
Deadline: 25 August (23:59 UT)

The International Time Programme (ITP) makes up to 5% of the time on the INT 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.

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 (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 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. 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).

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)

Chris Benn, Head of Astronomy (crb@ing.iac.es)

15th August 2019