



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

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY FOR OBSERVING TIME

William Herschel Telescope: 1st May – 31st October, 2026

1. WEAVE (LIFU mode)
2. WEAVE Target of Opportunity Observations
3. Proposal submission and deadlines
4. ING instrumentation updates
5. No time offered on the INT

1. WEAVE (LIFU mode)

For semester 2026A we continue to offer WEAVE's LIFU (large integral-field unit) in low- and high-resolution modes. WEAVE's other modes (MOS, and mini-IFUs) will be offered once they are fully commissioned.

WEAVE's instrumental capabilities are summarised on

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

Prospective applicants should note that, as in recent calls, the date range is shifted relative to the semester typically followed by ING. This call is for observations to be carried out during 1 May – 31 Oct 2026. The 3-month shift relative to the usual semesters is imposed by the long lead time for preparation of the WEAVE observing blocks.

Approximately 480 hours, or 30% of the available WHT night time during this period, 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 (CPS and APS at CASU). All raw and processed data will be made available to the PI teams through the CASU operational repository (OR) and at 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. WEAVE Target of Opportunity observations

In semester 2026A, the ING will offer Target of Opportunity (ToO) observations using the LIFU mode. ToO proposals address unpredictable astronomical events that require immediate observation and whose timing does not align with the standard proposal preparation and OB submission cycle.

ToO proposals will be evaluated in the same way as regular Open Time proposals. Only band-A ToO proposals are likely to be attempted. ING expects to execute at most one trigger per night, and any requests will be handled on a first come, first served basis.

The OBs will be prepared by ING following an activation trigger from the proposing team. The observing strategy at execution must match what was requested and approved in the proposal, and triggers must not exceed the allocated time.

At present, ING supports 'next day' triggers: for an event scheduled to be observed on a given night, the trigger must be received by the Observatory no later than 12:00 noon on the preceding day. ING will strive to execute ToO programmes on a shorter timescale on a best-effort basis.

3. Proposal submission and deadlines

Information about applying for WEAVE Open Time Programme can be found on:

<https://www.ing.iac.es/astronomy/observing/WEAVE-OT.html>

WEAVE open-time observing proposals to the Dutch, Spanish or UK time-allocation committees (TACs), should be submitted using the ING form at

<https://astro.ing.iac.es/weave/ph1.php>

by the deadline listed below.

Netherlands (NL PC) <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/isaac-newton-group-telescopes-26a>
Deadline: 2 October 2025 (at 14:00 CET).

Spain (ES CAT) <http://www.iac.es/OOCC/night-cat/>
Deadline: 3 October 2025 (at 21:59 UT).

UK (ING PATT) <https://www.ing.iac.es/astronomy/observing/INGPATT.html>
Deadline: 15 September 2025 (at 24:00 UT).

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 (see above).

4. ING instrumentation updates

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

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

5. No time offered on the INT for now

Time on the INT will be offered again once the HARPS3 spectrograph has been commissioned. This may be in the second half of 2026A via a dedicated call or in 2026B.

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