ACAM is a highly-versatile wide-field imager/spectrograph, mounted permanently at a folded-Cassegrain focus of the 4.2-m William Herschel Telescope. The field of view in imaging mode is 8.3 arcmin. In spectroscopic mode, the resolution is R ~ 600 in the red. ACAM is ideal for programmes requiring high throughput (up to twice that of ISIS), unusual (e.g. custom) filters, rapid response (e.g. supernovae) or observations over several nights (e.g. exoplanet transits). During the first two years of operation ACAM has proved popular with observers, and has been used for imaging or spectroscopy of a broad range of objects from comets and exoplanets to supernovae and gamma-ray bursts.

ACAM was designed to exploit the large field of view available at the WHT Cassegrain focus, and to provide a versatile, permanently-available instrument which is expected, for many years to come, to be a useful complement to more specialised instrumentation on larger telescopes (e.g. GTC).

ACAM is a popular instrument on the WHT, particularly for service observations, and for targets of opportunity, and currently accounts for ~10% of the WHT papers published in refereed journals.