

INAF



ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI ASTROFISICA
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ASTROPHYSICS

Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma

DECRETO N. 16/2010

EUROPEAN EXTREMELY LARGE TELESCOPE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

OVERVIEW

The European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT) Project aims to provide European astronomers with the largest optical-infrared telescope in the world. The 42m-diameter E-ELT will dramatically advance astrophysical knowledge by enabling studies of (for example) exo-planets, the first galaxies, black holes, and the nature of the Universe's dark sector. A fellowship is offered to support scientific aspects of the E-ELT project. This position is associated with a work-package focussed on science case development for the E-ELT under the OPTICON programme (the Optical Infrared Co-ordination Network for astronomy, which is funded by the European Commission Framework Programme 7, see <http://www.astro-opticon.org/>).

The E-ELT project is included in the ESFRI list of opportunities, and is one of two clear top priorities for future ground-based astronomy that emerged from the ASTRONET European planning process. The project is currently well into the detailed design phase, working towards a proposal for construction to be submitted to ESO Council in late 2010. If approved, the project will enter a construction phase leading to first light in around 2018. For further details see www.eso.org/sci/facilities/eelt/

The fellow is expected to work with Dr. Isobel Hook in supporting development of the science case, maintaining European community involvement and awareness of the E-ELT project, promoting the E-ELT throughout Europe and preparing the community for its use. The duties of the fellow will include the following:

- Organising scientific conferences/workshops on the E-ELT
- Developing the science case in coordination with the E-ELT Project Office at ESO in Garching, Germany
- Giving presentations at institutes around Europe
- Assisting in preparation of future funding proposals
- Taking part in outreach and promotional activities

FELLOWSHIP POLICIES

1. Eligibility

The fellowship is open to applicants of any nationality who hold a Ph.D. Candidates who have not yet received their doctoral degree at the time of application must have obtained their Ph.D. by the starting date of the fellowship. Qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, creed, colour, sex or national origin.

2. Host institute

The fellowship will be held at the Astronomical Observatory of Rome (INAF-OAR). The fellow will work under the supervision of Dr. Isobel Hook. The Director of OAR will be the contact of the fellow's grant for administrative purposes.

3. Stipend and duration of fellowships

The gross annual stipend will be euro 32.000,00 (included tax due by the fellow). The amount will be paid in monthly deferred instalments, after deducting the amount due to tax regulations in accordance with Italian law. Travel funds to support the fellowship are also available. No additional stipend, salary, or other remuneration may be accepted from any other appointment (such as teaching), fellowship, or similar grant during the period of the fellowship. The duration of the fellowship is one year, renewable for a further two years upon positive assessment of performance and availability of funds. The appointment is foreseen to start as soon as possible, and no later than October 1 2010.

The funds are available in the CRA 2.05.24 "FP7 OPTICON".

In the case of serious and inexcusable misbehaviour the fellowship may be discontinued by OAR with two weeks' notice.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications must be sent by recorded delivery with acknowledgement of receipt to

INAF- OSSERVATORIO ASTRONOMICO DI ROMA
c/o Dr. Emanuele Giallongo, Director
Via di Frascati, 33, 00040 Monte Porzio Catone, Italy

no later than 31 March 2010.

Applications must consist of the following documentation:

- curriculum vitae
- list of publications
- summary of previous and current research (limited to three pages total, including references and figures)
- two letters of reference to be sent directly by their authors, not the applicants, to the director.

SELECTION AND AWARD OF FELLOWSHIP

1. The Committee

A Committee will make evaluations and selects the candidates.

Desired qualifications include:

- PhD degree in astronomy, physics or a related field
- Research activity contracts at public and private institutions, fellowships or appointments, both in Italy and abroad
- Scientific activities and publications

The candidate must be fluent in English and have good communications skills. He/she should have a thorough understanding of current astronomical research techniques through, for example, experience in the use of large optical-IR telescopes and/or their instrumentation. He/she should also be willing to travel within Europe during the Fellowship.

After the selection process, the Director of the Rome Observatory will grant the fellowships and the successful candidates will be notified of the intent to award a fellowship. The awardees must declare their acceptance by registered mail or express courier. In case of refusal or forfeiture of the fellowship, the grants can be awarded to another candidate following the ranking provided by the Committee, within four months of the end of the selection process.

2. Visa requirements

Non E.U. fellows will normally apply for an Italian visa sponsored by INAF. More information can be found on the INAF website www.inaf.it.

Rome, March 8, 2010

Emanuele Giallongo, Director