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EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

Vacancies in the Directorate of the Scientific Programme

The European Space Agency is an equal opportunity employer
and encourages applications from women

POSTS

Astronomers (2 positions) in the Space Telescope Operations Division, Research and Scientific Support Department, Directorate of the Scientific Programme.

These posts (*) are classified in the A2/A4 grade band of the Coordinated Organisations' salary scale.

LOCATION

Space Telescope Science Institute, ST ScI, Baltimore (USA)

DUTIES

ESA provides personnel to the Space Telescope Science Institute as part of its collaboration with NASA on the Hubble Space Telescope (HST). ESA personnel are on assignment from the Space Telescope Operations Division, Directorate of the Scientific Programme of ESA to the Institute.

There are currently different positions available at the Institute and these will be filled with the person whose background best matches the individual job requirements.

In general the functional duties will encompass one or several of the activities associated with the instruments currently on board HST or to be deployed in future servicing missions. This includes the characterisation, on orbit testing and calibration of the scientific instruments and/or the support to Users during the preparation, implementation and execution of the observing programmes. Duties for other HST related positions include the scientific oversight of development programs to further improve the HST observing efficiency and user interface.

Some specific posts currently open include the following activities:

- the scientific oversight and coordination of development projects associated with improving the efficient planning and scheduling of the HST observing programme;

* Supernumerary posts

- direct support to Users of HST instruments currently on board, ACS, WFPC 2, STIS, NICMOS and FGS;
- support for the instruments currently under construction and to be deployed in the 2004 mission, COS the ultraviolet spectrograph and/or the WFC3 optical/near IR camera. Duties will evolve during the design and construction phase and include the definition of the laboratory and in-orbit calibration programmes, and the support of Users after deployment;
- the development of archival tools and systems in support of the HST archives and the international Virtual Observatory initiatives.

In addition to the functional tasks, the successful candidates will be expected to carry out an active programme of research in astronomy.

QUALIFICATIONS

Candidates for these positions must have a Ph.D. or equivalent degree in astronomy or physics, and have considerable research experience with an established record of independent research and scientific publications in astronomy.

The primary qualifications we are seeking are excellence in instrumental, observational, or theoretical research. Applications are encouraged from both junior and senior astronomers, as the experience and accomplishment of the successful applicant will determine the level of the appointment.

The working languages of the Agency are English and French. A good knowledge of one of these two languages is required. Knowledge of another member state language is an asset.

CLOSING DATE

Applications from external candidates for this post should reach the ESA Personnel Department not later than 6 May 2003 and should preferably be made [on-line](#) at the ESA Web Site (www.esa.int/hr/). Those unable to apply on-line should submit their CV to the Head of the Personnel Department, ESA, 8-10 rue Mario-Nikis, 75738 Paris, Cedex 15 (France).

ESA staff members wishing to apply for this post should fill in the Internal Application Form, which can be downloaded from <http://ids2.estec.esa.int/apply>

Under ESA Regulations, the age limit for recruitment is 55. Please note that applications are only considered from nationals of one of the following States: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The United Kingdom and Canada.