



GTCR08_20 Astronomer (Junior Level)

Closing date: 05-10-2020 at 13:00 (WEST)

Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC) invites applications for one Astronomer position (Junior Level) based in La Palma (Spain).

The GTC, with a diameter of 10.4 metres, is the largest single aperture telescope in the world and it is in operation since March 2009. The GTC is sited at the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory (ORM) on the island of La Palma (Canary Islands) which is a world-class observatory and the best site in Europe for ground based optical/infrared astronomy.

GTC Astronomers (Junior Level) are integrated in the Science Operations Group that is responsible for the astronomical operations of the GTC. GTC Astronomer (Junior Level) will report directly to the GTC Head of Science Operations.

Duties:

GTC Astronomer (Junior Level) will:

- regularly conduct service observing at the GTC (approx. 60-70 nights/year). This includes calibrations and preliminary data quality checks.
- perform data quality checks of the GTC observations prior to distribution.
- perform regularly instrument quality control checks under direct supervision of the GTC Support Astronomers (instrument specialists) or GTC Senior Astronomers.
- be involved, together with the engineering staff, in the integration and commissioning of new GTC science instruments, under direct supervision of the GTC Support Astronomers and Senior Astronomers.
- validate new tools for the GTC night operation, including new software releases functionalities.
- be expected to carry out competitive scientific research activity. A guaranteed fraction of his/her time (30%) will be devoted to his/her own personal research.

Qualifications requirements:

To be eligible for admission, applicants must have:

- Degree in Physics or related subject.
- Vehicle driver license (category B or higher)

Candidates who do not meet these requirements will be discarded and not valued.

(Section A) Essential knowledge and Experience:

The successful candidate must:

- Possess understanding of astronomical instrumentation.
- Have experience with night observing at optical/infrared telescopes.
- Be able to communicate effectively in both English and Spanish.
- Be self-motivated and lively team players with effective problem-solving and inter-personal skills.
- Be able to maintain an established work schedule and to follow instructions precisely.

(Section B) Desirable knowledge and Experience:

- Experience with proposing, acquiring, reducing and analysing data from optical/infrared telescopes.
- Presentation of a competitive research program involving the use of GTC.
- Experience with instrument building and commissioning.
- Innovative ideas to exploit and enhance the observing capabilities of the GTC.

Merits to value:

- **Section A:** Maximum score: 60 points.
- **Section B:** Maximum score: 40 points

The assessment will be based on the documentation provided by the candidate and a personal interview.

Contractual Information

The selected candidate will sign with GRANTECAN a permanent full-time work contract, subject to a six-month trial period, and should be available by 1 December 2020 at the latest.

The contract will be signed with GRANTECAN, the organization executing the operation of the GTC on behalf of the IAC. The annual gross salary will be **30.437,82 Euros**, which is subject to Spanish income tax and social security deductions. Medical insurance under the Spanish National Health Service is provided for the candidate, including coverage for spouse and children. The day and night-time work based at the ORM has additional bonuses.

The work will be split between the telescope at the ORM and the sea-level office (CALP) located in Breña Baja, La Palma. Appointed individual should be available for night-time support on a rota system as part of a multi-disciplinary Operations Team.

GRANTECAN is fully committed to equal treatment and opportunities in the work environment.

Non-UE citizens:

Applicants who are not citizen of a country belonging to the European Union are invited to apply for this position, but, if selected, will be allowed to sign the contract with the GTC only after obtaining the compulsory documentation required to live and work in Spain.

Applications

Interested applicants should send by **OCT 5th, 2020 at 13:00 (WEST)**, to the email address r.personal@gtc.iac.es, indicating the relevant reference number in the subject line.

Applications will contain the following documents (in PDF format):

- Application form (available on our web)
- Curriculum Vitae (including possible list of publications if exists)
- Presentation (cover) letter with statement of research interests
- Two letters of recommendation to be sent directly from active researchers who are familiar with the candidate' previous experience

Late applications or those that do not include the mandatory application form, will not be considered. In case of incomplete applications, the applicant will have a period of three (3) days, starting from the date in which the missing documentation is required and never beyond the deadline.

Further information

Further information on this position is available from the GTC Head of Science Operations Dr. Antonio Cabrera (0034 922 425 720 ext 747 or e-mail antonio.cabrera@gtc.iac.es). Further details about the GTC may be found at its web site: <http://www.gtc.iac.es>.