GTCR_11_26 DATA SCIENTIST

Publication date: 26 October 2026 **Deadline:** 27 November 2026

The public company Gran Telescopio de Canarias, S.A. (GRANTECAN) is launching an open selection process to recruit one ***Data Scientist*** to contribute to the implementation of new or enhanced observational capabilities at the Gran Telescopio de Canarias (GTC).

GRANTECAN looks for people with outstanding talent and skills to operate, maintain and improve the Gran Telescopio de Canarias (GTC), enabling the execution of scientific projects of the highest quality in the field of Astrophysics. To this end, it requires people with integrity, responsibility, transparency, respect and honesty in their work, who seek continuous improvement, personal safety, the integrity of the facility, efficiency and innovation in their actions, as well as responsible and sustainable use, with the primary objective of caring for the environment.

The GTC is located on La Palma, Canary Islands (Spain), a privileged location offering an exceptional quality of life, combining a safe, peaceful and welcoming environment with outstanding natural landscapes, a favourable climate, and numerous opportunities to enjoy nature and outdoor activities. The island also hosts one of the world's most important astrophysical observatories, making it a unique place to live and develop a professional career in a first-class scientific and technological environment. It has direct daily air connections with Madrid, as well as many daily flights to Tenerife and Gran Canaria.

Duties

The selected candidate will report hierarchically to the Head of Engineering Operations or the Head of Scientific Operations, depending on their profile. Their main activity will be framed within the following scientific-technical services:

1) High Spatial Resolution Astronomical Observations.

One of GTC's priorities is the implementation of diffraction-limited observing capabilities. This includes the commissioning of the GTC Adaptive Optics System (GTCAO), the Laser Guide Star System, and associated scientific instrumentation (GRANCAIN and FRIDA). It also requires improving the telescope's optical quality and operational procedures in order to achieve nominal performance. GRANTECAN seeks a specialist in data analysis and software development to support the commissioning, optimisation, and enhancement of all operational processes related to the implementation of routine scientific observations using adaptive optics, as well as of the other scientific instruments at the GTC.

2) Digital Transformation.

GRANTECAN is undertaking a deep digital transformation aimed at optimising the telescope's operational processes and increasing its efficiency, automation and performance. This includes innovative aspects based on Industry 4.0 digital enablers such as the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Big Data, Digital Twins, etc. Within this process, the successful candidate's role will be to contribute to the implementation of the analytical layer, incorporating solutions for GTC data analysis focused on improving and automating operations, enabling prescriptive maintenance, adding cyber-physical capabilities to critical GTC systems, and building a digital twin.

Section A: Minimum Required Qualifications

- First-cycle university degree [QF-EHEA] (MECES Level 2) in Software Engineering, Data Science, Physics, Mathematics, or equivalent disciplines.

- Full current driving licence (Level B or higher).

Section B: Experience, Knowledge and Specific Core Competencies

- Data analysis and Big Data.
- Programming in C, C++ or Python.
- Operation and development of optical/infrared telescopes.
- Effective communication in Spanish, both spoken and written, sufficient to perform the required professional duties.
- Effective communication in English, both spoken and written, sufficient to perform the required professional duties.

Section C: Experience and/or Knowledge in Complementary Specific Competencies

- MECES Level 3 or 4 (QF-EHEA) in disciplines listed in Section A.
- Artificial Intelligence.
- Data visualisation platforms.
- Cloud computing.
- Ability to work in a multidisciplinary team environment.
- Leadership and organisational skills, with emphasis on adapting to change, transparency, self-organisation and teamwork.

Merits to Value

- Section A: Candidates who do not meet these requirements will be discarded and not evaluated.
- Section B: Maximum score: 60 points. Candidates scoring less than 40 points will be disqualified.
- Section C: Maximum score: 40 points

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

GRANTECAN is fully committed to equal opportunities and non-discriminatory recruitment.

Under equal conditions in terms of merit and ability, preference will be given to the incorporation of personnel with disabilities and personnel of the sex less represented in the professional group to which the position belongs.

Contractual Information

The selected candidate will sign an open-ended full-time employment contract with GRANTECAN, subject to a six-month probationary period. The duration of this contract will be indefinite, starting on the contract commencement date, with its validity linked to the scientific-technical services detailed in the “Duties” section. From a technical perspective, implementation of these scientific-technical services is expected to be completed around 2030-2031. This is in accordance with Article 23 bis of Law 14/2011 of 1 June on Science, Technology and Innovation.

The work centre will be GRANTECAN’s operations base in Breña Baja (La Palma), with frequent work stays at the Roque de Los Muchachos Observatory (GTC) at 2,400 m altitude. Occasional work may be required at the Tenerife site in San Cristóbal de La Laguna.

The gross salary will correspond to Salary Level E (€39,887.58). Additional economic compensation will be paid for work carried out at the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory in La Palma.

GRANTECAN will also contribute to relocation costs for candidates residing outside the island of La Palma. The maximum contribution will be:

- Up to €2,000 for international candidates.
- Up to €1,300 for candidates from mainland Spain.
- Up to €800 for candidates from other Canary Islands.

The contract entitles the employee to contributions to the Spanish national pension scheme, inclusion in the public healthcare system, and access to social benefits provided by GRANTECAN.

Non-EU Citizens:

Applicants who are not citizens 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 GRANTECAN only after obtaining the compulsory documentation required to live and work in Spain.

Submission of Applications

Interested candidates must submit their applications no later than **27 November 2026 at 15:00 (WEST)** to r.personal@gtc.iac.es, indicating the relevant reference number in the subject line. Applications must include the following documents in PDF format:

- Cover letter describing the motivations for applying to this call.
- Application form (available on our website).
- Curriculum vitae.

Late applications will not be considered. In case of incomplete applications, the applicant will have a period of three (3) days, starting from the date on which the missing documentation is requested, and in no case beyond the application deadline, to provide the required documents

Further Information

For further information about this position, please contact the Head of Engineering Operations Group, Luis Rodríguez García (0034 922425720 ext. 734 or e-mail luis.rodriguez@gtc.iac.es) or the Head of Scientific Operations Group, Antonio Cabrera Lavers (0034 922425720 ext. 747 or e-mail antonio.cabrera@gtc.iac.es).

For information regarding the selection process, please contact the Head of Administration at GRANTECAN, Lourdes González Rodríguez (0034 922425720 ext. 721 or e-mail lourdes.gonzalez@gtc.iac.es)

For further information about GRANTECAN, please visit our website: https://www.gtc.iac.es/GTChome.php.