



GTCR01_18 Support Astronomer

Closing date: 09-05-2018

Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC) invites applications for one Support Astronomer position 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/infra-red astronomy.

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

Duties:

GTC SAs will:

- regularly conduct service observing at the GTC (approx. 40-50 nights/year). This includes calibrations and preliminary data quality checks.
- provide night-shift support and scientific and technical advice to visiting astronomers.
- perform data quality checks of the GTC observations prior to distribution.
- be responsible, as instrument specialists, for monitoring of the scientific performance of the GTC science instruments, and for planning strategies in support of data reduction, calibration and data archiving.
- provide support to the community in the preparation of observing proposals, during the execution of accepted scientific programmes, and in the data distribution and analysis.
- be involved, together with the engineering staff, in the integration and commissioning of new GTC science instruments. In addition, opportunities exist for SAs to participate and contribute to the development of new science instruments and telescope upgrades.
- be expected to carry out scientific competitive research. A guaranteed fraction of his/her time (20%) will be devoted to his/her own personal research. GTC SAs are Affiliated Scientists members of the Research Division of the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC) and, as such, have access to the IAC common facilities available at the IAC, including funds for attending scientific meetings and for publication fees, computing infrastructure, etc.
- participate in the GTC public relation and outreach activities.

Qualifications requirements:

To be eligible for admission, applicants must have a Ph.D. in observational astronomy or related subject.

(Section A) Essential knowledge and Experience:

The successful candidate must:

- Possess a good understanding of astronomical instrumentation.
- Have the ability to work effectively with the engineering staff to diagnose and solve technical problems.
- Present a competitive research program.
- 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.
- Have the ability to work without direct supervision. Applicants should be able to maintain an established work schedule and to follow instructions precisely.
- Have a full, current driving license.

(Section B) Desirable knowledge and Experience:

- Experience with telescope operations and support astronomer's duties.
- Experience with proposing, acquiring, reducing and analysing data from optical/infrared telescopes.
- Experience with instrument building and commissioning.

- Experience with the submission of successful funding proposals.
- 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

Contractual Information

This is an interim position which will last until February 2020 and is subject to a 6-month probation period. Successful candidate should be available by 1 September 2018 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 36.463,19 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.

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 **MAY 9th, 2018**, the following documentation: Application form (available on our web), Curriculum Vitae, list of publications, a brief statement of research interests, and two letters of recommendation to be sent directly from active researchers who are familiar with the candidate' previous experience, to: r.personal@gtc.iac.es quoting the relevant reference number in the subject line.

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 five (5) days, starting from the date in which the missing documentation is required.

Further information

Further information on these positions 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>.

The GTC is fully committed to equality of opportunity in the workplace.