



ESO

European Organization
for Astronomical
Research in the
Southern Hemisphere



For the Data Management and Operations Division at its Headquarters in Garching near Munich, Germany, ESO is opening the position of a

Virtual Observatory and Astronomical Data Specialist

Career Path: V

Purpose of the Job

ESO is part of a coordinated effort in collaboration with other partners in Europe known as EURO-VO. ESO's Virtual Observatory (VO) activities are managed by the Virtual Observatory Project Office, which represents ESO in the International Virtual Observatory Alliance (IVOA) and is also responsible for providing the ESO Science Archive and other relevant groups with the appropriate VO requirements and standards so that ESO data are accessible through VO tools and protocols.

Responsibilities and Working Environment

The Virtual Observatory Specialist will be part of the Virtual Observatory Project Office of the Data Management and Operations Division (DMO) and will be reporting to the Head of the VO Project Office. He or she will be interacting with other Departments within the division on a regular basis.

The successful candidate will be the VO Project Office main technical liaison with the IVOA and is expected to participate to its Working Groups and play an active role in the definition of VO standards. He or she will also be the main ESO VO technical point of contact in, and outside of, the division, providing detailed input on VO requirements and the implementation of VO standards to other groups. These will include the Archive and Data Products Departments, and the European Extremely Large Telescope and ALMA projects.

Qualifications

A university degree in computer science, astronomy, physics, mathematics or equivalent experience.

Experience

The ideal candidate will be familiar with astronomical data and archives, VO standards and tools, and common software engineering practices. Applicants with additional experience in several of the following areas are strongly encouraged to apply: astronomical databases and interfaces, web and grid service frameworks, and web content management. Experience in XML document processing and programming, and in one or more computer languages like Java, C++, Python, Perl and SQL will be considered as an asset.

Competences

The capability of interacting effectively with, and providing requirements to a variety of people is a must. The ability to work on projects independently, as a team member and with other geographically dispersed groups is also required. An excellent command of the English language is needed, both spoken and written.

Duty Station: Garching near Munich, Germany.

Starting Date: As soon as possible.

Remuneration and Contract: We offer an attractive remuneration package including a competitive salary (tax free), comprehensive pension scheme and medical, educational and other social benefits as well as financial help in relocating your family and the possibility to place your child(ren) in daycare up to the age of 3.



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The initial contract is for a period of three years with the possibility of a fixed-term or indefinite extension. The title or grade may be subject to change according to qualification and the number of years of experience.

Application: If you are interested in working in areas of frontline technology and in a stimulating international environment, you are invited to apply online at <https://jobs.eso.org/>. Applications must be completed in English and should include a motivation letter and CV.

Closing date for applications is 31 May 2008.

Although recruitment preference will be given to nationals of ESO Member States (members are: Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom) no nationality is in principle excluded.

The post is equally open to suitably qualified male and female applicants.