



ESO

European Organization
for Astronomical
Research in the
Southern Hemisphere



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

Data Specialist

Career Path: IV

Purpose of the Job

As Data Specialist in the Virtual Observatory Project Office (VOP) you will contribute to the Euro-VO project and be the document coordinator for the International Virtual Observatory Alliance (IVOA) and the web master for the IVOA and Euro-VO Web.

Responsibilities and Working Environment

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

You will be part of the VO Standards Group in the VOP Office and will be reporting to the Group Lead. In addition you will work with other members of the Data Management and Operations Division and Euro-VO Astronomical Infrastructure for Data Access (AIDA and IVOA members across Europe and world-wide respectively).

Your main tasks will include:

- Participation in the AIDA project in the area of evolution of VO standards, and data access protocols and models;
- Work within the VOP Office to provide input on VO requirements and the implementation of VO standards to other ESO groups;

- Coordinator of IVOA documents;
- Maintaining the IVOA and Euro-VO wiki servers, as well as the Euro-VO Web pages; and
- Attending IVOA and AIDA meetings.

Qualifications

University degree in computer science, astronomy, physics, mathematics, or equivalent.

A good command of the English language is essential.

Experience

Familiarity with VO standards and tools, web content management, common software engineering practices, and astronomical data is essential.

Additional experience in the areas of astronomical databases and interfaces, web and grid service frameworks is highly desirable.

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.

Key Competences

You should be able to:

- Work constructively in a team and speak to colleagues at all levels;
- Work on projects as a team member with other geographically dispersed groups; and
- Build strong effective links with other teams and external partners.

Duty Station: Garching near Munich, Germany.

Starting Date: As soon as possible.



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Remuneration and Contract

We offer an attractive remuneration package including a competitive salary (tax free), comprehensive medical, educational and other social benefits as well as financial help in relocating your family, the possibility to place your child(ren) in daycare up to the age of 6.

The initial contract is for a period of one year with the possibility of a fixed-term 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, please visit (<http://www.eso.org>) for further details.

Applicants 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 5 April 2009.

Although recruitment preference will be given to nationals of ESO Member States (members are: Austria, 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.