

Job Title: Internal Research Fellow (PostDoc) in the Directorate of Science at ESTEC, ESAC or STScI

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EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

Research Fellowship Opportunity in the Directorate of Science.

ESA is an equal opportunity employer, committed to achieving diversity within the workforce and creating an inclusive working environment. Applications from women are encouraged.

Post

Internal Research Fellow (PostDoc) in the Directorate of Science at ESTEC, ESAC or STScI

This post is classified F2.

Location

ESTEC, European Space Research and Technology Centre, Noordwijk, The Netherlands, or
ESAC, European Space Astronomy Centre, Villanueva de la Cañada, Spain, or
STScI - ESA Office, Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

The opportunity

ESA's postdoctoral Research Fellowship programme offers young scientists and engineers the possibility to carry out research in a variety of disciplines related to space science, space applications, or space technology. Research Fellowships in the Directorate of Science specifically offer the opportunity to contribute to ESA's endeavour to explore our Solar System and the Universe in the fields of heliophysics, planetary science, astrophysics and fundamental physics.

Our team and mission

The Science and Operations Department in the Directorate of Science conducts research programmes covering many areas of space science. These research activities are coordinated by the ESA Science Faculty, made up of all scientists (including the Fellows) in the three above locations. Research Fellows take leading roles in research programmes, in close collaboration with scientific staff. Research Fellows also help foster a lively scientific environment in the Directorate, inspiring ESA scientists to get involved in new scientific activities. The Research Fellowship programme nurtures and strengthens the links between ESA and the scientific communities in the Member States.

Research Fellows spend their time on their scientific research and have no functional duties. Up to 20% of the time can be spent on scientific activities in support of an ESA mission.

Interested candidates are encouraged to visit the ESA website (<http://sci.esa.int>) for an overview of ESA's Science Programme

Field(s) of activities/research

We welcome all proposals for innovative research associated with one or more of our missions (linked to from the web site above). For an overview of the on-going space science research activities at the different sites, and more details about the fellowships, please visit our website: <https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/science-faculty/research-fellowship>

Interested candidates should consult these pages to identify which of the establishments offers the most relevant environment for their research. Candidates are welcome and encouraged to contact any of the scientists working in areas of their interest.

Technical competencies

- Breadth of exposure coming from past and/or current research/activities
- Knowledge relevant to the field of research
- Research/publication record
- Ability to conduct research autonomously
- General interest in space and space research
- Ability to gather and share relevant information

Behavioural competencies

- Self Motivation
- Problem Solving
- Relationship Management
- Ambassadorship

Communication
Innovation & Creativity
Continuous Learning
Cross-Cultural Sensitivity

Education

Applicants must have completed and obtained their PhD before starting the Research Fellowship. Applications submitted by candidates within five years of receiving their PhD are preferred.

Additional requirements

The working languages of the Agency are English and French. A good knowledge of one of these is required. Knowledge of another Member State language would be an asset.

Specificities

- The research expenses for ESA Research Fellows are covered by the Department's budgets. This includes publication charges, attendance of conferences, participation in observing campaigns and/or research visits, etc.
- Research Fellows have access to the Science Visitor Programme, funded by the ESA Faculty, allowing invitation of external collaborators to the ESA sites.
- Research Fellows have various opportunities to supervise undergraduate or Master's-level student trainees.
- Research Fellows are encouraged to join existing research activities, as well as to initiate new collaborations with Faculty members. As Faculty members, Fellows are eligible to request funding through the Faculty for activities requiring substantial additional funding (e.g. for hardware, organisation of conferences and workshops, etc.).
- Fellows are invited, once on site, to select a mentor among Faculty members, who will guide and provide support with general issues. Mentors are especially meant to support fellows with their future orientation and job search.

The review committee will consist of members with diverse areas of expertise. Therefore the application should be written for a general audience of space scientists. The application will be evaluated with respect to scientific excellence of the candidate (past achievements), proposed research at ESA (feasibility, future impact), and synergies with existing ESA research activities at the selected site. See also Further Questions, Tips and Hints.

Appointments for an ESA Research Fellowship are for 2 years, with a possibility of a 3rd year extension.

Please refer to: Call for applications: <https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/science-faculty/research-fellowship>
Careers at ESA website: http://www.esa.int/About_Us/Careers_at_ESA/Post_Docs_Research_Fellowship

Other information

For behavioural competencies expected from ESA staff in general, please refer to the [ESA Competency Framework](#).

The Agency may require applicants to undergo selection tests.

The closing date for applications is 30 October 2020.

In addition to your CV and cover letter, please add your proposal of no more than 5 pages outlining your proposed research in the "additional documents" field of the "application information" section.

Candidate are also asked to provide contact information for three senior scientists able to provide reference letters on request. Furthermore candidates should indicate a preference of a location where they would like to hold their fellowship.

If you require support with your application due to a disability, please email contact.human.resources@esa.int.

Please note that applications are only considered from nationals of one of the following States: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Nationals from Latvia and Slovenia, as Associate Member States, or Canada as a Cooperating State, can apply as well as those from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Lithuania and Slovakia as European Cooperating States (ECS).

According to the ESA Convention the recruitment of staff must take into account an adequate distribution of posts among nationals of the ESA Member States. When short-listing for an interview, priority will first be given to internal candidates and secondly to external candidates from under-represented Member States. (<http://esamultimedia.esa.int/docs/careers/NationalityTargets.pdf>)

In accordance with the European Space Agency's security procedures and as part of the selection process, successful candidates will be required to undergo basic screening before appointment.