

Project Scientist for HST & JWST

Job Req ID: 12487

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Vacancy Type: Permanent

Date Posted: 16 June 2021

Vacancy in the Directorate of Science.

ESA is an equal opportunity employer, committed to achieving diversity within the workforce and creating an inclusive working environment. For this purpose, we welcome applications from all qualified candidates irrespective of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, beliefs, age, disability or other characteristics. Applications from women are encouraged.

Post

Project Scientist for HST & JWST

This post is classified A2-A4 on the Coordinated Organisations' salary scale.

Location

Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI), Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Description

The European Space Agency maintains a world-leading Science Programme with missions in heliophysics, planetary science, astrophysics and fundamental physics. The Department of Science and Operations (SCI-S), in ESA's Directorate of Science, hosts the scientists and engineers who oversee the space missions from study to end of operations; it develops the science operation systems for the missions and operates the missions in space; it archives and curates their data during operations and beyond. Our main objective is to maximise the scientific output of the missions for the benefit of humankind.

The Project Scientist for HST and JWST interfaces with and directly engages with the ESA astronomical community (and the public) with the goal of keeping the missions prominent and visible in Europe. You will ensure that maximum scientific return from the missions is maintained as a target throughout all phases, keeping within the technical, financial, programmatic and safety constraints, working with the Mission Manager to design and implement activities that increase the scientific value of the missions with stakeholders.

In this role, you will also act as Head of the ESA Office in STScI and be the prime ESA ambassador at the STScI, playing a key role in maintaining strong links between the leadership of the ESA Science Directorate and the leadership at STScI. You will serve as the point of contact for all ESA Office activities that interface with STScI.

This position is an exciting opportunity to lead the ESA Office at the Space Telescope Science Institute and provide scientific support and representation for the Hubble Space Telescope and James Webb Space Telescope. As Head of the ESA Office at STScI you will report to the Head of the Science Division in the Science and Operations Department, and report functionally in your role as project scientist to the Head of the Astrophysics Observatories Section in the Science Division, which provides study and project scientist support to the Science Directorate's missions.

Duties

The duties of the Project Scientist are:

- Proposing and overseeing the appointment of ESA community representatives on STScI committees, including the Institute Visiting Committee, and committees for the missions (e.g. user committees, time allocation committees, JWST Early Release Observations interagency committee).
- Acting, for all scientific matters, as the interface between internal development, and operations teams on the one hand and external scientific teams, partners, and the wider scientific community on the other.
- For the mission extension proposals the Project Scientist leads the development of the science case.
- Promoting missions to the wider scientific community (e.g. through conferences, town halls, master classes as well as via social media and electronic newsletters). You will also support broader Directorate and Agency communications, outreach, and education activities aimed at the general public.

The Project Scientist is expected to actively pursue personal scientific research and participate in the Science Faculty.

The duties of the Head of the ESA Office include:

- Managing the ESA Office ('ESA-STScI Unit' - SCI-SCB) and liaising with the STScI Director/Deputy on issues of relevance to the ESA presence at STScI.
- Acting as contact point at STScI for implementation of the contract between ESA and the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) which provides backing to ESA operations at STScI.
- Coordinating communications, jointly with the ESA HST and JWST Mission Manager, within the ESA Office and within STScI between the ESA team and the AURA activities.

Technical competencies

Active researcher in a relevant field of space science

Experience in coordinating the scientific community

Experience in space mission operations

Experience in promoting science to the wider scientific community and general public

Behavioural competencies

Result Orientation

Operational Efficiency

Fostering Cooperation

Relationship Management

Continuous Improvement

Forward Thinking

Education

A PhD in astrophysics (or equivalent) is required.

Additional requirements

Further assets for this position are:

Experience in communication and outreach with the science community and with the public;

Experience in managing industrial contracts is an asset;

International work experience, i.e. outside your home country;

A good understanding of the European and worldwide space science context, including the programmatic context.

Other information

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

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.

The Agency may require applicants to undergo selection tests.

At the Agency we value diversity and we welcome people with disabilities. Whenever possible, we seek to accommodate individuals with disabilities by providing the necessary support at the workplace. The Human Resources Department can also provide assistance during the recruitment process. If you would like to discuss this further please contact us 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, the United Kingdom and Canada, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovenia.

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.
(<https://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.

Recruitment will normally be at the first grade in the band (A2); however, if the candidate selected has little or no experience, the position may be filled at A1 level.