Doctoral Bursaries

The South African Astronomical Observatory is seeking qualified candidates for three Doctoral Bursaries offered under the Professional Development Programme. Successful candidates will work with SAAO astronomers as co-supervisors in areas of mutual interest related to the mission of SAAO, including planetary, stellar, galaxy, and cosmology research, instrumentation development and engineering, telescope and software development, and science education and outreach.

The successful candidate could potentially be registered for their PhD at any South African university and SAAO staff would be pleased to discuss joint supervision and possible collaborations with their university colleagues.

Minimum requirements:

• A Masters in any of the following fields:
  o astronomy,
  o physics,
  o mathematics,
  o computer science,
  o engineering
  o other related fields

• South African citizenship or Permanent Residency
• Acceptance for a PhD at an SA university (help with this can be provided)

The SAAO is the National Facility for Optical and Infrared Astronomy of the National Research Foundation (NRF). Its headquarters are in Cape Town, while its research telescopes are at Sutherland in the Northern Cape. Distributed between the two sites, SAAO employs about 130 people, many of them scientists and engineers, and is contracted to operate SALT (the Southern African Large Telescope) on behalf of the international SALT Foundation. SAAO is the premier optical/infrared research facility on the African continent, with global research and outreach collaborations, contributing to SET human capital development for South Africa.

Appointments will be for three-year terms, to begin no later than January 2017. The bursary amount is R180 000 (tax free) per annum for a 3-year period. Applications should include a CV and statement of research interests, and should be submitted to Ms. Linda Tobin, HR Manager, SAAO. Applicants from previously disadvantaged groups are particularly encouraged to apply. Applications received by 25 November 2016 will receive first consideration, but applications will continue to be considered until all positions are filled.

Questions concerning the positions should be sent to linda@saaao.ac.za.