Postdoctoral Fellows

We are seeking qualified candidates for three postdoctoral positions offered under the Professional Development Programme. Successful candidates will work with SAAO astronomers in one or more of the following areas related to the core mission of SAAO:

- Astronomical research (including planetary, stellar, galaxy, and cosmology research)
- Instrumentation development and observatory support (including software and hardware development, engineering)
- Science education and Outreach

Minimum requirements:

- A PhD in any of the following fields:
  - astronomy,
  - physics,
  - mathematics,
  - computer science,
  - engineering,
  - other related fields
- South African citizenship or Permanent Residency

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 February 2017. The bursary amount is R350 000 per annum for a 3-year period. Applications should include a CV and a statement describing either research interests (for those wishing to pursue a research path) and/or a statement of skills/interests applicable to observatory support. These 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@saao.ac.za.