

# What the European Southern Observatory has to offer and how you can use it



# **Daniel Asmus**

ESO, Chile & University of Southampton





"ESO is the pre-eminent intergovernmental science and technology organisation in astronomy. It carries out an ambitious programme focused on the design, construction and operation of powerful ground-based observing facilities for astronomy to enable important scientific discoveries."



### Astronomical Observatory Map



Credit: K. Reardon





200 km



- 66 antenna interferometer
- 0.32 to 3.6 mm,
- 0.018" to 3.4" angular resolution

"Users of any professional background, nationality or affiliation may submit an ALMA proposal (call yearly, deadline in April)"

See separate call

# **Paranal Observatory**

VLTI

VLT

VST

VISTA

# **VLT/I Instruments**









UV visible

NIR

MIR





### Wavelength

UV	V	si	b	6

NIR

ER

MATISSE







# VISTA

(Visible and Infrared Survey Telescope for Astronomy) **VST** (VLT Survey Telescope)

#### VIRCAM (VISTA InfraRed CAMera)

OmegaCAM

Credit: M. Claro/ESO

# VISTA

#### (Visible and Infrared Survey Telescope for Astronomy)

**VST** (VLT Survey Telescope)





VIRCAM (VISTA InfraRed CAMera)

Credit: M. Claro/ESO

# La Silla Observatory

8.55

3.6m





# **APEX** (Atacama Pathfinder EXperiment)

LAPOCA (Large Apex BOlometer CAmera)

PI230 (A 230 GHz receiver for APEX)

#### **SEPIA** (Swedish ESO PI receiver for Apex)

#### ArTéMiS

(Architectures de bolomètres pour des Télescopes à grand champ de vue dans le domaine sub-Millimétrique au Sol)

# How to make use of ESO?

+ES+ 〇			A R C H I V E	FACILI	ITY	pecific Interfaces ESO Ar	Chive Overview	bserva	Archive Facility HOME	w Data y Form eso home
This query interface whether raw or pro- To search through <b>Products</b> , including other retrievable ac <i>Checkboxes on the</i> <i>parameters' values</i>	the allows to sear becessed calibration the raw frames ag public survey dvanced data pro- right of the part of are used to con-	rch and to request ions needed to pro <b>querying by inst</b> ys and pipeline-re roducts is available rameters' names of instrain the query	t raw observational ocess the selected r trument-specific p duced and quality-o le. define whether or n on those values.	data taken by aw science dat arameters, pla controlled scie ot the relative	telesco ta shou ease us ence-re param	opes of the La Silla ald also be delivered se the <i>Instrument-sp</i> ady data, please hav seters will be displa	Paranal Obser d. <i>pecific Interfac</i> ve a look at the yed in the quer	vatory. At re es link above generic data ry result page	quest time the user c c. To search for <b>redu</b> <u>products</u> query form c; checkboxes on the	an decide ced Data n. A list of <i>left of the</i>
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				Observin	g Info	ormation				
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<ul> <li>FORS</li> <li>FORS</li> <li>HAWK</li> <li>GRON</li> </ul>	VLT	<u>EFOSC2</u> /LaSilla <u>EMMI</u> /LaSilla <u>FEROS</u> /LaSilla <u>FORS1</u> /VLT		LGSF/VLT  MAD/VLT  MASCOT/P  WFCAM/uk	aranal IRT		User de User de	fined input: Mode ✓ fined input:	Any ÷ Any ÷	
		FORS2/VLT GIRAFFE/VLT HARPS/LaSilla	Polarimetry ALL NONE EFOSC2/LaSilla	Sparse Apert Mask ALL NON	ture		Dat Ori <u>Relea</u> Ol	aset ID 🗹 g Name 🗆 se Date 🗹 R Name 🗆		

# Observing Proposals

Credit: G. Hüdepohl/ESO

Call for proposal twice per year (deadlines end of March & September)

- Document with all relevant info appears  $\sim < 1$  month before
- Everyone can apply
- Service mode or Visitor mode for Paranal; La Silla only visitor mode (3+ nights minimum); APEX only service mode
- Travel support but only for member state affiliated Top Tip: Start at least 1 month in advance with the preparation





ESO Call for Proposals – P101 Proposal Deadline: 28 September 2017, 12:00 noon CEST

# What telescope/instrument do I need for my science goal?

What can I learn with telescope/instrument X for my science?

# Is it feasible???

Has something similar been done before?

Who can help me?

What kind of proposal do I need to write?

What is needed?





# ESO Call for Proposals – P101

Proposal Deadline: 28 September 2017, 12:00 noon CEST

Ι	Phase 1 Instructions	
1	ESO Proposals Invited1.1 Important recent changes (since Periods 99 and 100)1.2 Important reminders1.3 Foreseen changes in the upcoming Periods	
2	Getting Started         2.1       Exposure Time Calculators         2.2       The ESOFORM proposal package         2.2.1       ESOFORM: Important notes         2.3       Proposal Submission	

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4	Pro	posal Types	
	4.1	Normal Programmes	•
	4.2	Monitoring Programmes	•
	4.3	Large Programmes	•
	4.4	Target of Opportunity	•
		4.4.1 ToO using the Rapid Response Mode (RRM) system.	•
	4.5	Guaranteed Time Observations	•
	4.6	Proposals for Calibration Programmes	•
	4.7	Director's Discretionary Time	•
	4.8	Host State Proposals	•
	4.9	Non-Member State Proposals	•
	4.10	VLT-XMM proposals	•

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	4.10	VLT-XMM proposals

## Additional important/helpful information on the website



Period

## Additional important/helpful information on the website



# Sometimes one can optimise chances by choosing the right instrument and targets...





#### European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere

OBSERVING PROGRAMMES OFFICE • Karl-Schwarzschild-Straße 2 • D-85748 Garching bei München • e-mail: opo@eso.org • Tel.: +49 89 320 06473

#### APPLICATION FOR OBSERVING TIME

#### PERIOD: 99A

#### Important Notice:

By submitting this proposal, the PI takes full responsibility for the content of the proposal, in particular with regard to the names of CoIs and the agreement to act according to the ESO policy and regulations, should observing time be granted.

1. Title

Are powerful polar dusty winds ubiquitous in AGN?

#### 2. Abstract / Total Time Requested

#### Total Amount of Time: 0 nights VM, 19.2 hours SM

The field of active galactic nuclei (AGN) research is now facing the possibility of a paradigm change. The key ingredient of AGN unification, the dusty obscuring torus was so far held responsible for the observed midinfrared (MIR) emission but recent studies of those objects with the best data show that instead a powerful polar dusty wind is dominating these wavelengths, leaving little room for the torus emission. But is this wind really ubiquitous? The current results make the clear prediction that all objects with a sufficiently inclined line of sight (type 2 AGN) and bright [OIV] emission should have detectable polar MIR emission, whereas the [OIV] is tracing how powerful the AGN and pronounced the ionisation cones are. Here we propose to the the ubiquity of this polar MIR emission with a straightforward detection experiment using the upgraded capabilities of VISIR.

Category: **B–6** 



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3. Rur A	Period	Instrument VISIR	Time 19.2h	Month any	Moon n	Seeing 0.8	Sky PHO	Mode s	Туре	
			Which am	bient c	ondi	tions	s do	you	need?	
	This can decide whether you are									
			scheduled	or not						
			(Revise va	lues at	the	end)	)			
4. Nur a) alrea b) still	<ul> <li>4. Number of nights/hours Telescope(s) Amount of time</li> <li>a) already awarded to this project:</li> <li>b) still required to complete this project:</li> </ul>									
5. Spe	cial remar	ks:								
Use ·	Use this box to highlight some important/special aspect of									
the p	the programme (e.g., this is a resubmission of a scheduled but									
not e	not executed programme).									
6. Prin	cipal Inves	tigator: Danie	el Asmus, dasmus@esc	o.org, ESO,	ESO (	Office Sa	antiag	;o		

6a. Co-investigators: Do you have the right Co-Is to pull this one off?!!

#### Here comes the meat. What exactly do you want to do? And why?

7. Description of the proposed programme

#### A – Scientific Rationale:

A new emerging paradigm for active galactic nuclei? It seems beyond doubt that active galactic nuclei (AGN) contain large amounts of dust which is heated by the accretion onto the supermassive black hole, leading to copious amounts of mid-infrared (MIR) emission, which in fact contains roughly half of the

#### Short introduction with relevant literature

2014,2016) show that most of the Milk emission is coming from a polar extended component extending from scales of a parsec up to tens or hundreds of parsec (depending on the AGN power), while no direct evidence for the presence of a torus was found. Hönig et al. (2012) interpreted this structure as a dusty polar wind driven by the radiation of the accretion disk (something we plan to investigate in another proposal; PI Hönig). In that case, the actual obscurer could be a much more compact and quite hot structure like a puffed up outer accretion disk as also assumed to occur in star forming disks. If this scenario would be true, it would have fundamental impact on the current AGN research field, which based many results on the presence of a prominent clumpy dust torus. Therefore, it is crucial to test how ubiquitous is this polar dust scenario which was developed based on observations of a few objects? The current situation. In Asmus et al. (2016), we made the first statis Explain

sufficient

second, th

with direct

t do not have polar emissi

prediction is that all type :

lar MIR emission. There

and

very

justify

clearly

sample

selection!

dust phenomenon by looking at all archival subarcsecond resolution MIR imag one hand, show no nuclear starburst, and, on the other hand, are at least moder for polar

The Problem...

Only a small fraction q This is explained by t AGN, one expects to powerful enough, so th importantly, most of t in many cases, and th

The prediction.

originating from th

enough to sion. So with every AGN having strong polar dust emission but its low detection rate least So, how can we further test the ubiquity of polar dus a detection experiment by utilizing a prediction that is made in Asmus et al. that the amount of extended MIR emission is correlating with the [OIV] 25.89 arable scales than the po x, 6 · 10<sup>-13</sup> erg/s/cm<sup>-2</sup>, sl

all objects above a The idea! that this threshold of detect it with current flux larger than this

nuclei in the literature with [OIV] measurements. Of these, 29 objects are ab have already verified polar MIR emission, i.e. are in the sample of Asmus et al. because they live in strongly disturbed, starbursting hosts, which leads to constar formation. Of the remaining 15 objects, 9 are observable from Paranal. Of course, this sample is nor complete nor uniform but it rather represents a population and thus is well-suited for testing our prediction.



and luminosity with the AGN fundamental parameters like bolometric luminosity and Eddington ratio over the



from Asmus et al. (2016). The green line indicates the polar axis of the AGN (from the literature), while its length denotes 100 pc. Right: Relative amount of resolved MIR emission ( $F^{\text{Gau}}/F^{\text{PSF}} - 1$ ) over the [OIV] emission line flux for the unresolved and resolved objects in Asmus et al. 2016. The dashed line denotes the threshold,  $6 \cdot 10^{-13} \text{ erg/s/cm}^{-2}$ , above which all objects are resolved. Furthermore, the amount of resolved emission increases further with increasing [OIV]. Note that the value on the y-axis is only a lower limit to the actual polar emission which is probably much higher as indicated from the interferometric results (e.g., Tristram et al. 2014).

#### Be smart with the plot arrangement



Fig. 2: Left: Bolometric luminosity distribution of the new sample compared to those objects with known polar MIR emission from Asmus et al. (2016). Right: Distribution of the Eddington ratio for the same samples. Note that for 3C 321 and IC 4518W, we could not retrieve black hole masses and thus Eddington ratios yet.

#### 8. Justification of requested observing time and observing conditions

Lunar Phase Justification: Our MIR observations do not have any requirements on lunar phase.

#### Time Justification: (including seeing overhead)

We want to observe 9 AGN with deep imaging in the filters B12.4 and Q1, which are the most sensitive filters in their corresponding bands. We know the brightness of the targets from previous observations. However, here we aim at robustly detecting relatively faint extended emission, which we want to probe to a similar depth in all objects. Specifically, we aim to detect flux levels of 5 mJy at a S/N of ~ 5 in B12.4, and 10 mJy in Q1. These values represent a compromise between reasonable execution times and a depth sufficient to robustly detect extended emission up to at least 1 arcsec away from the nucleus in all cases. For this, an exposure time of 30 min suffices in both filters according to the ETC 6.2.0 in average conditions for B12.4, while in the Q1, we will use a low PWV constraint (the STDs observed in Paranal show that sensitivities of 20mJy for 10 sigma/1h are reached for PWV < 1.5 mm). We constructed corresponding OBs in p2pp 3.4.2, one per filter with blind acquisition, leading to execution times of 53 min for one.

Since we are looking for relatively small extension, consecutive observation with a PSF reference star is necessary and will take 11 min per object per filter (blind acquisition and 2 min exposure time).

Therefore, we require 1h04min per filter (including calibrator), leading to a total required time of 19.2 hours.

Describe clearly which instrument mode you want to use and how you arrived at the requirements for time and conditions.

Are you sure you understand all technical aspects? Maybe better consult an expert...

# **Summary Important Advice:**

- Read the Call for Proposals!
- Read the instrument manual!
- Have a clear, well-defined science goal
- Demonstrate how the observations will allow you to reach your goal
- Explain very clearly your sample selection
- Write a concise and interesting abstract, iterate it several times it is the most important single paragraph in the proposal
- Demonstrate that your team will be able to reduce/analyse the data
- Include one or two clear and optimised figures that are easy to read and understand, supporting your case
- Describe clearly which instrument mode want to use and how you arrived at the requirements for time and conditions
- Check if similar data already exists, and if yes, explain concisely why new ones are needed

#### If you don't get through the first time(s), don't give up! Try again!

# Working at ESO

- Visiting
  - Contact (potential) collaborator at ESO

#### Studentship

- Call for applications twice every year (May 31 & Nov 15)
- Identify and contact potential supervisor way in advance
- Up to 2 years at ESO (Chile or Germany), return to home institution for finishing
- Up to 6 positions at each site per year

#### • Fellow

- Call for applications every year (deadline Oct 15)
- 3 years in Garching with 25% duties OR 3 years in Chile with 80 nights duty (choose Paranal or ALMA) + 1 at member state with 0% duties
- Up to 6 positions at each site per year

#### • Staff

· Call for applicant depending on needs (pay attention to job portal/ads)

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Get in touch!

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FOcal Reducer and low dispersionSpectrograph

- Wavelength: 0.3 to 1.1 micron (UV, visible)
- Modes: imaging, longslit spectroscopy, multi object spectroscopy, polarimetry, spectropolarimetry, high-time resolution
- Angular resolution: seeing-limited (> 0.4 arcsec)
- Field of view: 6.8 x 6.8 arcmin or 4.3 x
  4.3 arcmin
- ☆ Spectral resolution: 260 to 2600
- Sensitivity: ~27th mag (imaging), 24th mag (spectroscopy)



Nasmyth Adaptive Optics System Near-Infrared Camera and Spectrograph

- ★ Wavelength: 1.0 to 4.0 micron (J H K L)
- Modes: Imaging (adaptive optics, noAO), Coronagraphy, Polarimetry, sparse aperture masking, burst
- Angular resolution: ~0.03 arcsec with adaptive optics (off-axis possible)
- $\Rightarrow$  Field of view: 56 x 56 to 14 x 14 arcsec
- ☆ Spectral resolution: —
- ☆ Sensitivity: ~24th mag, (18.6 in L-band)



VIt Imager & Spectrograph for the InfraRed

- ☆ Wavelength: 5 (M), 7-13 (N), 16-21 (Q) micron
- Modes: imaging, burst, coronagraphy, sparse aperture masking, low and high resolution long-slit spectroscopy, crossdispersed high-resolution spectroscopy
- Angular resolution: down to 0.2 arcsec
- ☆ Field of view: 38 x 38 arcsec
- ☆ Spectral resolution: ~200 and ~20000
- Sensitivity: 9th mag (imaging), 7th mag (LR spectroscopy), 3rd mag (HR spectroscopy)



Spectrograph for INtegral Field Observations in the Near Infrared

☆ Wavelength: 1.1 to 2.5 micron (J, H, K)

 Modes: medium resolution integral field spectroscopy (64 x 32 spaxels)

- ☆ Angular resolution: ~0.05 arcsec with adaptive optics (off-axis possible)
- ☆ Field of view: 8 x 8, 3 x 3 or 0.8 x 0.8 arcsec
- ☆ Spectral resolution: 1500 to 4000
- ☆ Sensitivity: ~20th mag



K-band Multi Object Spectrograph

- Wavelength: 0.8 to 2.5 micron (visible, J, H, K)
- Modes: medium resolution integral field spectroscopy (14 x 14 spaxels times 24 arms)
- Angular resolution: seeing limited (> 0.3 arcsec)
- Field of view: 7.2 arcmin & 2.8 x 2.8 arcsec
- ☆ Spectral resolution: 2000 to 4200
- ☆ Sensitivity: ~20th mag



MultiUnit Spectroscopic Explorer

- ☆ Wavelength: 0.5 to 0.9 micron (visible)
- Modes: medium resolution integral field spectroscopy (1024 x 1024 spaxels)
- Angular resolution: seeing-limited (> 0.4 arcsec; but adaptive optics in a few years)
- Field of view: 1 x 1 arcmin
- ☆ Spectral resolution: 1800 to 3600
- ☆ Sensitivity: ~23th mag



VIsible MultiObject Spectrograph
 Wavelength: 0.36 to 1.0 micron (UV, visible)

- Modes: imaging, multi-object medium resolution spectroscopy, integral field medium resolution spectroscopy
- Angular resolution: seeing-limited (> 0.4 arcsec)
- Field of view: 4 x 7 x 8 arcmin (imaging & MOS), 13 x 13 to 56 x 56 arcsec (IFU, 6400 fibers of 0.33 to 0.67 arcsec)
- ☆ Spectral resolution: 200 to 3100
- ☆ Sensitivity: ~27th mag (imaging)



Multiwavelength spectrograph

- Wavelength: 0.3 to 2.5 micron (UV, visible, J, H, K)
- Modes: medium resolution spectroscopy, integral field spectroscopy
- Angular resolution: seeing-limited (> 0.3 arcsec)
- Field of view: 11 arcsec (slit length) or
   1.8 x 4 arcsec (IFU)
- ☆ Spectral resolution: 3000 to 18000
- ☆ Sensitivity: ~21th mag



# Ultraviolet & Visible Echelle Spectrograph

- Wavelength: 0.3 to 1.1 micron (UV, visible)
- Modes: cross-dispersed high resolution spectroscopy
- Angular resolution: seeing-limited (> 0.4 arcsec)
- ☆ Field of view: 10 arcsec (slit length)
- ☆ Spectral resolution: 40000 to 110000
- ☆ Sensitivity: ~19th mag

### Other instruments:

- ☆ Current:
  - ☆ FLAMES (visible MOS/IFU),
  - HAWKI (NIR widefield imager),
  - SPHERE (vis/NIR extreme AO imager/polarimeter)
  - VLTI/PIONIER and AMBER (NIR interferometer)
  - VISTA/VIRCAM (NIR widefield imager on 4m)
  - VST/OMEGACAM (visible widefield imager on 2m)

- ☆ Future:
  - VLTI/Gravity (NIR interferometer)
  - VLTI/MATISSE (mid-infrared interferometer)
  - CRIRES (1 to 5 micron high resolution AO spectrograph)
  - AO upgrades for MUSE and HAWKI
  - ESPRESSO (high-res spectrograph)