



Postdoctoral Research Positions in “Galaxies and Cosmology” at the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy (MPIA) in Heidelberg (Reference number 11-07)

The Max Planck Institute for Astronomy (MPIA) in Heidelberg is seeking several, highly motivated and qualified post-doctoral researchers for the opportunity to pursue a wide range of topics in the field of galaxy structure and evolution, in observational cosmology, in large-scale surveys, in simulations of galaxy and structure formation, and in instrumentation development.

Areas of particular astrophysical focus in the department include: the internal structure, dynamics, populations and ISM of nearby galaxies, in particular of our own Milky Way; the gas content, star formation, and black hole growth in galaxies; optical near-infrared surveys and high angular resolution observations to understand the drivers of galaxy and AGN evolution; gravitational lensing; quasar absorption lines, the intergalactic medium and re-ionization history of the Universe. At present, the 'Galaxies and Cosmology' department at MPIA is pursuing a wide range of astrophysical research projects along these lines, encompassing large observing programs, development of adaptive optics, interferometric instrumentation, and theoretical modelling. Outstanding candidates in all areas of extragalactic astrophysics will be given full consideration.

MPIA researchers have privileged access to the twin 8.4 meter Large Binocular Telescope (LBT) in Arizona, the 2.2 m MPG telescope on La Silla, the 2.2 and 3.5 m telescopes on Calar Alto, and access to all ESO facilities, including the Very Large Telescope (+ Interferometer) in Chile. They will have direct access to a 1000 core Infiniband Cluster dedicated to the GC group. MPIA astronomers also extensively use (sub-)millimeter observatories such as the IRAM facilities and APEX. The department is a major partner in the ongoing PanSTARRS1 Survey, with focus on the Milky Way structure and high-redshift quasars. It is also involved in a number larger collaborations, e.g. KINGFISH, COSMOS and CANDELS. It has a leading role in the data processing for the Gaia mission and is preparing for the scientific exploitation of the data. MPIA is also leading the building and science planning of LINC-NIRVANA, an innovative interferometric imaging instrument for the LBT. MPIA offers also an excellent computational environment as well.

Applicants should have a PhD in astronomy, astrophysics, or a closely related field. The appointment will be for an initial period of two years with a likely extension to a total of three years. MPIA provides a stimulating work environment and funds for publications, computing, travel, etc. The available positions range from independent work within the broad research direction of the “Galaxies and Cosmology” department to more project-oriented positions.

The starting date is expected to be no later than autumn 2012, but earlier dates are possible. For further inquiries, please contact H.-W. Rix or anyone of the staff members of the Galaxies and Cosmology Department: http://mpia.de/Public/menu_q2.php?../GC/contact.php

Candidates should send a curriculum vitae, publication list, and a brief statement of research interest by December 1, 2011, and arrange for three letters of reference to be provided separately by the same date. All applications and references letters need to be submitted using our online application system at:

https://s-lotus.gwdg.de/mpg/mhas/gc_pd_11_07_in.nsf/portal

Candidates should first register with our online system to generate a registration code, which must be sent to referees for letter submission. Please concatenate CV, publication list, and research statement into a single PDF file.

Contact: Thu Huong Witte-Nguy (GC Department secretary)
E-mail: witte@mpia.de

The Max Planck Society is an equal opportunity employer. Applications from women, disabled people and minority groups are particularly welcome. MPIA supports its employees in their search for suitable child care.

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