

I.N.A.F.

ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI ASTROFISICA
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ASTROPHYSICS

INAF POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME
2010

JOB DESCRIPTION

The National Institute for Astrophysics (INAF) is the Italian agency for astrophysical research. It runs 19 research Observatories/Institutes in the country and the Telescopio Nazionale Galileo (TNG) in the Canary Islands. INAF contributes, among other projects, to the Large Binocular Telescope (LBT) in Arizona and the Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) network. In the last few years, INAF has been rated as the most productive Italian research institution in the field of Physics, and according to a recent ISI Thompson evaluation it ranks 5th in the world as regards refereed publications in astrophysics. INAF comprises about 550 research staff, 450 technical and administrative support staff, 300 postdoctoral and graduate students. INAF main active areas of interest are the study of the Universe in all its aspects, from the Solar System to Cosmology, and the development of advanced instrumentation and technology for both ground-based and satellite observations. Since many of these technologies are potentially useful in our lives as well, INAF is also deeply engaged in creating and strengthening opportunities for technological transfer. Thanks to Italian participation in the European Southern Observatory (ESO), INAF researchers have access to the most advanced optical instrumentation. In the radio domain, INAF participates with two antennas (in Medicina and Noto) in the worldwide Very Large Base Interferometry (VLBI) to which it will be soon added the 64 meters Sardinia Radio Telescope (SRT) antenna now under construction. In the near future, INAF is going to play an important role in huge international programmes as the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) and the European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT).

INAF is also involved, through the Italian Space Agency (ASI) partnership with ESA and NASA, in the development and exploitation of most major international space telescopes and scientific space missions.

Fellowship policies

1. Eligibility

The National Institute for Astrophysics (INAF) offers 8 post-doc grants for research activity in **Astronomy** and **Astrophysics**, to be carried out at the locations, as listed below.

INAF fellowships are intended for applicants of any nationality who have earned a PhD, or equivalent degree after January 1, 2007. The successful candidates who have not yet received their doctoral degree at the time of applications must have a Ph. D. by the starting date of their fellowships. Qualified applicants will receive consideration without regarding to race, creed, colour, sex or national origin. Candidates should submit their application by using the attached form (**Annex 1**).

2. Host Research Structures

Candidates should indicate the research structure where to carry out their proposed research programme: the research structures are:

- Arcetri Astrophysical Observatory -Florence www.arcetri.astro.it
- Bologna Astronomical Observatory –Bologna www.oabo.inaf.it
- Brera Astronomical Observatory-Milan www.brera.inaf.it
- Cagliari Astronomical Observatory –Cagliari www.ca.astro.it
- Capodimonte Astronomical Observatory –Naples www.oacn.inaf.it
- Catania Astrophysical Observatory-Catania www.oact.inaf.it
- Padova Astronomical Observatory –Padua www.oapd.inaf.it
- Giuseppe Vaiana Astronomical Observatory-Palermo www.astropa.unipa.it
- Roma Astronomical Observatory –Rome www.oa-roma.inaf.it
- Vincenzo Cerulli Astronomical Observatory of Collurania-Teramo www.oa-teramo.inaf.it

- Torino Astronomical Observatory –Turin www.oato.inaf.it
- Trieste Astronomical Observatory –Trieste www.oats.inaf.it
- Institute for Space Astrophysics, Bologna www.iasfbo.inaf.it
- Institute for Space Astrophysics, Milan www.iasf-milano.inaf.it
- Institute for Space Astrophysics, Palermo www.ifc.inaf.it
- Institute for Space Astrophysics, Rome www.iasf-roma.inaf.it
- Institute for Interplanetary Space Physics, Rome www.ifs-roma.inaf.it
- Institute for Interplanetary Space Physics, Turin www.ifs-torino.inaf.it
- Institute for Radioastronomy, Bologna www.ira.inaf.it
- FGG - Galileo National Telescope, La Palma Island (Spain) www.tng.iac.es
- Research Group INAF – Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa m.vietri@sns.it

In order to increase mobility among young researchers, applicants must propose to carry out their research activity at any of the above listed centres with the exception of their current home institution. Furthermore the selected hosting centre must be in a district (Italian provincia) different from the one where the applicant has obtained his/her Phd (or equivalent) unless the applicant has carried out research in a third country for the last 3 consecutive years.

An eligible member of the scientific staff of the host structure will serve as the contact point for scientific purposes; the Director of the host structure will be the contact of the fellow's grant for administrative purposes. As part of the application procedure, an endorsement letter from the Director of the selected structure is required. The Director of the structure must declare that he agrees to support the research activity of the applicant.

3. *Stipend and duration of fellowships*

The gross annual stipend will be euro 35000. The amount will be paid in monthly deferred instalments, deducted the amount due to taxes regulations in accordance with the Italian law.

In addition, the fellows will receive a research grant up to euro 5000 (gross amount per year) to cover expenses related to his/her research activity. No additional stipend, salary, or other remuneration may be accepted from any other appointment (such as teaching), fellowship, or similar grant during the period of the fellowship.

INAF fellowships are awarded through grants to host structures for a two - year period. A review of scientific activity and recommendations of the scientific contact member are requested two months before the end of the first year in order to confirm the support for the second year. The scientific report must be countersigned by the director of the structure and the scientific contact member.

In case of serious and inexcusable misbehaviour the fellowship may be discontinued by INAF with a two weeks notice.

Application procedure

1. *Application*

Applications must be submitted by e-mail in .pdf format with scanned signatures to dip.strutture@inaf.it and giuseppe.ragonese@inaf.it no later than 10 January 2011. Information requests can be addressed to:

INAF Post-doc Fellowships Programme 2010
INAF – Department of Research Structures
Viale del Parco Mellini, 84
I-00136 Rome, Italy
Phone (+39) 06 355 33 351
e-mail: dip.strutture@inaf.it; giuseppe.ragonese@inaf.it

Applications for INAF Post-doc Fellowships must consist of the following documentation:

- application form
- curriculum vitae

- list of publications
- summary of previous and current research (limited to three pages total, including references and figures)
- research proposal (limited to three pages of text plus up to two optional pages of reference/figures)
- scientific contact person related to the object of the research proposal
- endorsement letter from the Director of the chosen Structure
- two letters of reference to be uploaded directly by their authors, not the applicants, and sent by e-mail with scanned signatures to dip.struttura@inaf.it no later than 31 January 2011.

2. Research proposal

Each applicant must propose a specific research programme relevant to the activities of the host structure. The research proposal should be at most three pages in length, with up to two additional pages to accommodate for references and/or figures. It is valuable to Committee members if the proposal includes a plan showing how the work is expected to progress throughout the two years.

Selection and award of INAF-fellowships

1. The Committee

A Committee, appointed by INAF President after consulting the Directors of the Scientific Departments, makes evaluations and recommendations in a form of a ranked list of candidates. The evaluation and recommendation by this Committee forms the basis on which the President grants the fellowship awards. No more than two fellowships will be granted to a single research structure.

The valuable qualifications are:

- PhD degree and certificates of attendance of postgraduate courses either in Italy or abroad
- Research activity contracts at public and private institutions, fellowships or appointments, both in Italy and abroad
- Scientific activities and publications

After the selection process, to be completed by the end of March 2011, the President grants the fellowships and the successful candidates will be notified of the intent to award a fellowship grant to the host structure. The awardees must declare their acceptance by e-mail to dip.struttura@inaf.it or registered mail or express courier within two weeks of the notification. In case of refusal or forfeiture of the fellowships, the grants can be awarded to other candidates within four months of the end of the selection process.

Fellowships should begin not later than October 1, 2011.

2. Visa requirements

Non-U.E. fellows will normally apply for an Italian visa sponsored by the host structure. More information can be seen on the INAF website www.inaf.it.

Rome, 2010

The INAF President
(Prof. Tommaso Maccacaro)

INAF POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS 2010

To: POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS 2010
INAF – National Institute for Astrophysics
Viale Parco Mellini, 84

00136 Rome – Italy

First Name.....
Surname.....
Family name.....
Date of Birth.....
Town of Birth.....
Country.....
Nationality.....
Address for correspondence.....
Home Address.....
Telephone..... Fax.....
e-mail.....

I apply for a post-doc fellowship to carry out a research programme at:

(host research structure)

(scientific contact person at the host research structure)

PhD or equivalent degree with a thesis on :

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Awarded on(date)

At.....(Institution, University, etc.)

Title of the Research Programme submitted to INAF:

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Thematic Area

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(to be chosen among) :

1. Galaxies and Cosmology
2. Stars, Stellar Population and Interstellar medium
3. Sun and Solar System

4. Relativistic and Particle Astrophysics
5. Advanced Technology and Instruments

Enclosures:

- a) Curriculum Vitae
- b) List of Publications
- c) A summary of previous and current research
- d) A copy of the research proposal
- e) Endorsement letter
- f) Names and e-mail contacts for the referees

Signature.....Date.....