

Archival Research Visitor Programme

Guido De Marchi
Head Scientist
ESDC

Status – Receiving applications



- Programme finally launched in early March

<https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/esdc/visitor-programme>

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ARCHIVAL RESEARCH VISITOR PROGRAMME

To increase the scientific return from its space science missions, ESA welcomes applications from scientists interested in pursuing research based on publicly available data in the [ESA Space Science Archives](#). The [Archives](#) host data from all current and past ESA space science missions in astronomy, planetary science, and heliophysics.

The ESA Archival Research Visitor Programme is open to scientists at all career levels who are affiliated with institutes in [ESA Member States and Collaborating States](#). Early-career scientists (within 10 years of the PhD) are particularly encouraged to apply. PhD students are also welcome to apply through their supervisors ([see below](#)).

Residence lasts typically between one and three months, also distributed over multiple visits, depending on the complexity of the research project. The research projects can be carried out at [ESAC](#) (Madrid, Spain) and at [ESTEC](#) (Noordwijk, Netherlands). To offset the expenses incurred by visitors, ESA covers travel costs from and to the home institution and provides support for lodging expenses and meals.

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European Space Agency

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- Announcements through many channels (ESDC newsletter, mission newsletters, professional societies, job registers, space agencies, etc...)
- Many expressions of interest and questions
- Several PhD advisors contacted us to support their students
- Applications due 30 April

Recap – How it works



- Open to all scientists in ESA member states (in fact, worldwide). Designed for early-career scientists, open to everyone, seniors welcome!
- Applicants identify expertise that they want to develop and data on which they intend to work. Important to contact local mission experts to ensure feasibility.
- Selected applicants come to ESAC/ESTEC for 1–3 months to pursue their project, helped by our local experts. All costs covered by ESA.
- First visits to start in the fall. If Covid19 situation remains uncertain, we might consider partial “virtual” start of selected projects.

- Technical feasibility of projects will be assessed by mission experts
- Selection to be based on scientific merit of the projects (May/June)
- Review committee to include ESDC, ESA Faculty, two members from each of the Archives User Groups
- 5 positions available for this call. We expect 30 – 50 applications, at most 10 – 15 per area. Not heavy work. Volunteers?
- Results will be announced at the end of June (timed for EAS meeting)