

**To Australian Astronomers:**

****European Southern Observatory (ESO) Users Committee (UC)****

**Under the Strategic Partnership between Australia and ESO, signed on 11 July 2017, Australia is entitled to representation on four ESO governance bodies: The ESO Council, Finance Committee (FC), Scientific Technical Committee (STC), and Users Committee (UC).**

**The Australian Government and Astronomy Australia Limited seek to ensure strong engagement between the astronomy community and ESO, so that Australia’s astronomy community can make the most of this unprecedented 10-year scientific partnership and meet the goals of the *Decadal Plan for Australian Astronomy 2016-2025*.**

**A vacancy has arisen for the role of Australia’s Representative on the UC, commencing from January 2022. The Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources has asked Astronomy Australia Ltd (AAL) to invite Australian astronomers to self‑nominate for this role, using the cover sheet at the end of this document.**

**The deadline for nominations to AAL is COB, Friday 24 September 2021.**

**Information on the UC role and the candidate attributes being sought is provided on the following page.**

**On receipt of nominations, AAL will conduct an internal merit-based short-listing process and will advise the department on the three most suitable candidates for the UC representative role. The department will forward details of the short-listed candidates to the ESO Director-General, with supporting documentation for each, including a *candidate statement* and 2-page *curriculum vitae*, by the end of September 2021. The ESO Director-General will consider the candidates and select the Australian representative on the UC, based on candidates’ merits and ESO’s need to ensure adequate coverage of relevant astronomical techniques and disciplines on each Committee.**

**Australia’s representative on the UC will be appointed for a term of three (3) years, with the possibility of reappointment for a further three-year term. The selected representative must be available to attend all UC meetings during their appointment term, starting from the first UC meeting of 2022, expected to be in around late-April 2022, and under usual circumstances would be held at ESO Headquarters in Garching, Germany, but with remote participation as an option.**

For reference, a listing of ESO Governing Bodies, rules, current membership, meeting dates and reports of previous meetings can be accessed at <http://www.eso.org/public/about-eso/committees.html>**.**

**There is no remuneration associated with participation on the ESO governing bodies. However, ESO covers reasonable travel and accommodation expenses for the Australian UC representative to attend the meetings of the UC.**

**Australia’s representatives on ESO governing bodies also participate as *ex officio* members on the Australia-ESO Coordinating Group, convened by the department to ensure Australia presents a consistent, collaborative, and broadly representative position in its engagement with ESO governance bodies as a whole, and the ESO Council in particular. This Group meets up to four times per year, with most attendees participating by video link. Members engage with the astronomy community to ensure that its views are considered by the Group in advising on Australia’s position on matters relating to the ESO Strategic Partnership.**

**Users Committee (UC) – Essential information:**

**Role**

**The ESO Users Committee is made up of representatives of the ESO users in each member state and includes also a representative from Australia and the host country Chile. It advises the ESO Director General on matters concerning the use of the ESO facilities (telescopes, instruments, operations tools, etc.) for both ALMA and La Silla Paranal Observatories and constitutes the main link between ESO and its user community. The recommendations of the UC to the ESO Director General are taken by consensus. ESO provides the Secretariat functions for the UC.**

**Meetings**

**The UC normally meets in person once a year, normally immediately after the Scientific and Technical Committee meeting which is held in April of each year.** A **mid-term teleconference among the members of the UC and ESO may also take place between five to seven months after the last UC meeting.**

**Composition**

**The UC is composed of one delegate from each of the ESO Member States, a representative from Australia, and one from Chile. The delegates shall be active research astronomers experienced in the use of ESO observing facilities. Delegates to the UC shall be appointed by the Director General for a term of three years, and may be renewed once by the Director General for a consecutive three-year term. If exceptional circumstances prevent a delegate from attending a meeting, (s)he may be represented by an alternate for the meeting concerned. The UC elects from among its members a Chair and a Vice-Chair, who hold office for one year and may be re-elected twice for a further year.**

**UC candidate attributes**

**Nominees should have a deep knowledge of optical and/or near-infrared observations, as well as experience with ESO’s La Silla Paranal Observatory and its operational model. They should have a solid research standing, credibility in the astronomy community, and be affiliated with an Australian research institution active in astronomy research.**

**A key aspect of this role is to represent and liaise with the Australian astronomy community on ESO‑related matters; therefore, nominees should have demonstrated effective communication, community representation and leadership.**

**We encourage nominations of all eligible scientists, including from groups traditionally underrepresented in these fields such as women and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.**

**The full Rules of Procedure for the UC are available at:**

<https://www.eso.org/public/about-eso/committees/uc/docs/RoP_UC_new.pdf>



****Call for self-nominations:****

****European Southern Observatory (ESO) Users Committee (UC)****

Please submit this cover sheet together with your supporting documents by **COB Friday 24 September 2021** to: [applications@astronomyaustralia.org.au](mailto:applications@astronomyaustralia.org.au).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name**  **(Title, first name, family name, include post nominatives if preferred.)** |  |
| **Current Position** |  |
| **Institutional affiliation**  **Department or Centre; Institution; University, etc.** |  |
| **Work Address** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Phone / Mobile** |  |

**Please attach to this cover sheet for consideration by AAL and the ESO Director-General:**

1. **A brief statement, outlining in up to 500 words / one page, what you consider to be your strengths and suitability for the role of Australia’s representative on the ESO Users Committee, addressing:**
   1. **relevant candidate attributes, specialist expertise, or experience sought by ESO for the Users Committee**

**and**

* 1. **your relevant strengths, experience and proposed approach in liaising with and representing the interests of the Australian astronomy community on the ESO UC**

1. **Your current condensed *Curriculum Vitae* – two (2) pages maximum please, supporting your statement and the attributes sought.**

**I declare that I am willing and available to attend all meetings of the ESO Users Committee (in person or remotely), for the duration of my appointment, and to undertake the necessary preparatory work and liaison with ESO, the astronomy community and the Australian government, if selected.**

**Signature Date**

**Name**