



Australian Government
**Department of Industry,
Science and Resources**



To Australian Astronomers:

**European Southern Observatory (ESO)
Australian Astronomer for ESO Council**

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 government seeks to ensure strong engagement between the astronomy community and ESO, so that we can make the most of the 10-year partnership. There are two Australian representatives as observers on the ESO Council: one government official appointed from the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (the department) and the other an internationally renowned Australian Astronomer. The term of the current Australian Astronomer for ESO Council will expire on 31 December 2023, creating a vacancy for this position. The department has asked Astronomy Australia Ltd (AAL) to invite Australian astronomers to self-nominate for the position, using the coversheet at the end of this document.

The deadline for nominations to AAL is COB, Monday, 2 October 2023.

Information on the Australian Astronomer for ESO Council role, and the candidate attributes being sought, is provided on the following pages.

On receipt of nominations, AAL will conduct an internal merit-based process and then present the department with the nomination for Australian Astronomer for ESO Council. The successful nominee will be notified by 31 October 2023.

The Australian Astronomer for ESO Council will be appointed for a term of three (3) years and is expected to be available to attend all ESO Council meetings during their appointment term, starting with the the first council meeting of 2024 (165th meeting).

For reference, a listing of ESO Governing Bodies, rules, scheduled meeting dates and overviews of previous meetings can be accessed at <http://www.eso.org/public/about-eso/committees.html>. Please note: under the terms of Australia's Strategic Partnership with ESO, Australia will have no voting rights in the ESO Council.

There is no remuneration associated with participation on the ESO governing bodies.

Please note that it is not expected that the Australian Astronomer for ESO Council will be required to attend all Council meetings in person. Where travel is required, the department will work with the nominated representative and/or their affiliated institution to arrange travel and accommodation.

ESO Council – essential information

Role

The ESO Council (the Council) is the main body of ESO. In particular, the Council:

- determines the policy of the Organisation for scientific, technical and administrative matters;
- approves the budget and draws up financial arrangements in conformity with the Financial Protocol attached to the Convention, supervises expenditure and approves and publishes the audited annual accounts of the Organisation;
- decides on the composition of the staff and approves the recruitment of senior personnel;
- publishes an annual report;
- approves the by-laws of the Observatory submitted by the ESO Director General and is vested with the authority to take the measures necessary for the functioning of the Organisation.

Meetings

The Council meets in ordinary session twice annually, in June and December. The Council also meets twice a year informally, typically in March and October, to facilitate development of policy and to prepare for decisions. Moreover, extraordinary Council meetings are convened on the initiative of the Council President or on a joint request of at least two Member States.

Composition

The Council is composed of two delegates from each of the Member States, at least one of whom must be an astronomer. The representatives may be assisted by experts. Council elects from among its members a President and a Vice-President, who shall hold office for one year and may be re-elected twice for a further year. The Member State whose delegate has been elected President shall appoint a new delegate in her/his stead.

The Director General acts as the chief executive of ESO. S/he is appointed by the Member States, acting in Council. S/he is responsible for the general management of the Organisation and shall represent it in civil actions

Australian Astronomer for ESO Council candidate attributes sought by ESO

The nominee shall be an engaged and internationally renowned astronomer who is affiliated with an Australian institution, active in astronomy research, and has solid standing and credibility across the astronomy community.

A key aspect of this role is to represent and liaise with the Australian astronomy community on ESO related matters; therefore, the nominee should have a strong links and a record of engaging broadly across the Australian astronomy community as well as demonstrated effective communication, community representation and leadership.

The nominee shall be required to work productively with the government representative on the Council, and as such should have demonstrated capacity to engage constructively with government stakeholders.

Current membership of the ESO Council is available here: <https://www.eso.org/public/about-eso/committees/cou/cou2023.html>

Appointment term

The Australian Astronomer for ESO Council astronomer will be appointed for a term of three (3) years.

The full Rules of Procedure for the ESO Council are available at:
http://www.eso.org/public/about-eso/committees/cou/rop_council.pdf



Call for self-nominations - European Southern Observatory (ESO) governance bodies:

Australian Astronomer for ESO Council

Please submit this coversheet with supporting documents by **COB Monday 2 October 2023:**

To: Catherine Andrews

email: catherine.andrews@astronomyaustralia.org.au

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

Please attach to this cover sheet for consideration by AAL:

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 Australian Astronomer for ESO Council, addressing:
 - a. relevant candidate attributes, international standing, specialist expertise, or experience sought by ESO for the Council; and
 - b. your relevant strengths, experience and proposed approach in liaising with and representing the interests of the Australian astronomy community on the ESO Council.
2. **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 international meetings of the ESO Council 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 _____