



Postdoctoral Position in Astrophysics at the University of Crete

The Astrophysics Group at the Department of Physics, University of Crete in Greece is inviting applications for a GSRT-funded postdoctoral position within the "Excellence" ("Aristeia") programme in studies of magnetic fields in blazar jets through optical polarization.

The Postdoctoral Researcher will be recruited in the framework of the RoboPol program (an international collaboration between the University of Crete, Caltech, the Max-Planck Institute for Radioastronomy, the Nicolaus Copernicus University, and the Inter-University Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics). RoboPol is a large-sample, high-cadence, polarimetric monitoring program of blazars in optical wavelengths, using a camera specifically constructed for this project, mounted at the University of Crete's Skinakas Observatory 1.3 m telescope. The analysis of RoboPol data will be conducted in conjunction with Fermi gamma-ray data, and multi-frequency radio data from the OVRO (Caltech), F-GAMMA (MPIfR), and Torun (NCU) monitoring programs. The study of interstellar medium magnetic fields through observations of the polarization of background stars in absorption is a secondary, supplemental science goal of the program. The program is accompanied by a complementary effort in theory and phenomenology.

The Postdoctoral Researcher will be working closely with the U. of Crete RoboPol team (Kylafis, Papadakis, Pavlidou, Reig, Tassis) and will have the opportunity to collaborate with the other members of the Astrophysics Group in Crete, as well as the international RoboPol collaborators.

The successful candidate will have a PhD in Physics, Astronomy, or a related field, and previous experience in either observational or theoretical studies of magnetic fields, radiative processes, and polarization in relativistic jets and/or the interstellar medium.

The position starting date can be between August and October 2012. The gross salary is 2,500 Euro/month. This is a full-benefits position. Its initial duration is 2 years, with the possibility of an extension.

Interested candidates should contact Vasiliki Pavlidou at pavlidou@physics.uoc.gr and send a CV, a brief description of their research interests and the names, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers of at least two referees. Screening of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. Further details concerning the cost of living in Greece, as well as contact information of former postdoctoral members of the Astrophysics Group in Crete are available upon request.