

Internal JMU TAG

Call for proposals for the Liverpool Telescope, Semester 2013A

*Please note there is a new Phase 1 form that **must** be used for JMU and PATT LT proposals; available from the LT website at <http://telescope.livjm.ac.uk/Info/PropInst/Phase1/#PATT>*

Time available and deadline

The deadline for submission is 15 October 2012

The time available to eligible applicants allocated by the next JMU-TAG meeting will be about 70 hours for 13A. In addition another 50 hours will be available as priority C (backup). Applications are particularly encouraged for bright time and/or poor seeing condition which are typically less subscribed.

Proposal process

Applications are submitted in two phases:

Phase 1

Phase 1 proposals are sent to the TAG outlining the science case for observation. See <http://telescope.livjm.ac.uk/Info/PropInst/phase1.php> for instructions on how to prepare and submit your Phase 1 proposal. Please specify a "minimum usable fraction" (see below).

Note that the JMU policy at the moment is to allow pre-allocation for the A semesters (thus the reduced time available in this call), but no pre-allocation for the B semesters. Thus this is only a single-semester call; longer-term plans can still be noted.

Separate to the April and October calls, observers may also apply for Reactive time, typically no more than 3 hours via: <http://telescope.livjm.ac.uk/Info/PropInst/Reactive>

Phase 2

Phase 2 is the observation specification phase. Successful proposals are entered into the observing queue with one of three rankings:

Rank	Definition
A	High priority programme. The TAG would like to see 100% completion of the observations.
B	Medium priority programme. The TAG would like to see at least the MUF (Minimum Usable Fraction) of observations obtained, provided this does not impact of the completion of priority A programmes.
C	Low priority programmes. These programmes are used to over-subscribe the observing queue so that the telescope is not idle. If observations are started for a programme then the scheduling software should aim to obtain at least the MUF of the observations, but not at the expense of completion of priority A or B programmes.

There is generally additional time available for band C programmes, spread equally across all observing conditions. Some programmes may have time split between the above rankings.

Instrument availability

- An upgraded version of the new 10x10 arcmin optical imager **IO:O** will be available this semester. The upgraded version will have a new E2V detector in order to improve the blue sensitivity and new baffling to block scattered light. Updates on the status of the instrument are regularly posted on the telescope website. Sloan u'g'r'i'z', Bessel B and V, and a rest wavelength H α plus four redshifted H α filters are available.
- The **IO:THOR** electron multiplying CCD camera will be available as a common user instrument for the first time. IO:THOR has a small field of view (~2 x 2 arcmin) with very fast readout.
- **FRODOSpec** is the multi-purpose integral-field input spectrograph providing observations at 380 to 1000 nm in either low (~2400) or high (~5400) resolution mode. The IFU provides a 12 x 12 lenslet array over a total field of view ~10 arcsec.
- **RINGO3** provides polarimetric observations with a similar sensitivity and field-of-view as RINGO2 but in three optical wavebands simultaneously.
- **RISE** is fast-readout camera developed in collaboration QUB. It has a fixed "V+R" filter (similar to that used in RINGO) and reimaging optics giving a 7 x 7 arcmin field of view and a cycle time of less than 1 second. For exoplanet related proposals using RISE you must contact Iain Steele for approval before submitting your proposal.
- Please note that **RATCam** is not being offered in Semester 2013A. This instrument is now over 10 years old: maintaining this instrument in an operational state is no longer feasible.

Note also that all instruments are now designated common user, although potential users are welcome to contact the LT Support Astronomers, Robert Smith or Jon Marchant (ltsupport_astronomer@astro.livjm.ac.uk) directly to discuss the capability of the instrument and feasibility of the observing programme well before submitting an observing proposal.

Information on the instruments is available at <http://telescope.livjm.ac.uk/Info/TelInst/Inst/>

Telescope performance

The current rms pointing of the LT is 6 arcsec.

The current tracking performance provides seeing-limited images (FWHM < 0.8 arcsec) for exposures up to 1 minute without the auto-guider (open loop) and up to 30 minutes with the auto-guider (closed loop). Individual exposures with the auto-guider are limited to 30 minutes.

*Ivan Baldry
LT JMU TAG chair
18th September 2012*