Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory seeks
Assistant Observer

The Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory, a division of the National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO), is seeking an Assistant Observer to operate 1.3-meter and/or 1.5-meter telescope on Cerro Tololo. These telescopes are part of a suite of four small telescopes operated by the SMARTS consortium. The observations on both the 1.3-meter and 1.5-meter telescope are run in queue mode.

The main duty of the Assistant Observer is to operate the telescope and the instrument and carry out the queue observations at maximum efficiency, while maintaining the security of both people and equipment. The Assistant Observer also carries out basic trouble shooting of the telescope and associated instrument, reporting and tracking problems, and assisting observatory technical staff with their diagnosis and resolution. In addition they are responsible for routine care of the instruments (e.g. daily refilling with cryogens).

The ideal candidate would be a professional with a University degree in Physics or Engineering, or with several years of equivalent experience operating a modern astronomical telescope. An aptitude for understanding software systems and working with complex scientific instruments, and some experience with computer programming would be assets. The candidate must be able to work at night at the telescope site, at elevations up to 2200m, on a seven by seven day shift cycle. The candidate must also have a valid Chilean driver license, and must be able to safely drive on the unpaved roads within the observatory property. He or she should have good writing & speaking skills, both in English and in Spanish.

The position includes an attractive benefits package. The Observatory provides a stimulating work environment and provides growth opportunities for the individual who shows initiative.

NOAO/CTIO is an affirmative action and equal employment opportunity employer and fosters a diverse working environment. Women and candidates from under-represented minorities are particularly encouraged to apply.

Job candidates should send a resume in English, by March 17, 2013 to jobs@ctio.noao.edu.