

The Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics (MPE) in Garching is a world leader in the field of ground-based and space-based experimental astronomy with its research areas Infrared and Submillimeter Astronomy, High-Energy Astronomy, Optical Astronomy, and Astrochemistry.

The Infrared Group of the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics invites applications from talented, ambitious graduating PhD students and postdoctoral researchers working on Galactic Center and black hole research for

Postdoctoral positions in Black Hole Research and Experimental Astrophysics (m/f/d)

Job Code: 25/2025

This research is supported by a major program of innovative instrumentation development. We have recently commissioned ERIS, a new diffraction-limited imaging and spectroscopic facility for the VLT. We are investing substantial developmental effort in interferometry and adaptive optics for ESO. We are the PI institute for GRAVITY and GRAVITY+, an ESO VLTI facility for precision astrometry and interferometric imaging of faint objects. We are also the PI institute for MICADO, the first-light instrument for the ESO ELT.

This year we are focusing our search mainly on candidates whose interests are in studying the Galactic Center black hole with GRAVITY+. Strong candidates with experience in experimental astrophysics will also be considered for additional positions.

Postdoc appointments can start anytime in 2026. Applicants should have a PhD in astronomy or related field before starting.

The salary and full social benefits are based on the German TVöD scale for public employees (E14 for postdocs), depending on experience.

Our Offer:

- A versatile, challenging and autonomous job in a dynamic and culturally stimulating international research environment in the development of satellite instrumentation.
- Interdisciplinary work in a team of experienced engineers and physicists.
- Needs-oriented training opportunities.
- Fair payment according to your qualifications and professional experience in accordance with the collective agreement for the public service (TVöD).
- Company pension scheme (VBL).
- Private accident insurance financed by the employer.
- Reduced rates for certain insurance policies.
- Family service at the Garching research campus.
- Underground station U6 directly in front of the institute.
- Free parking on the institute grounds.
- Canteen in the immediate vicinity.



Your application:

Applicants should send a letter of application, a 2-3 page description of research interests, a CV including bibliography, and request three letters of reference to be sent directly to us by November 15, 2025 to irjobs@mpe.mpg.de

Late applications will be accepted until suitable candidates are found.

For scientific enquiries about the positions, please contact Linda Tacconi (linda@mpe.mpg.de) or Frank Eisenhauer (Eisenhau@mpe.mpg.de).

MPE is committed to equal opportunities and diversity. We welcome all applications regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic or social origin, religion or belief, disability, age, sexual orientation or identity. Family-friendly working conditions are a matter for us.

The Max Planck Society is committed to increasing the number of individuals with disabilities in its workforce and therefore encourages applications from such qualified individuals.

Furthermore, the Max Planck Society seeks to increase the number of women in those areas where they are underrepresented and therefore explicitly encourages women to apply.