

Centro Astronómico Hispano en Andalucía (CAHA)

Call for proposals at the Calar Alto

2.2 & 3.5 meter telescopes

Spring semester 2026 (26A)

January 1st, 2026 until June 30th, 2026



DEADLINE: October 15th, 2025

14h00m00s (UT) at the latest

Earliest date for submission: September 16th, 2025



Calar Alto, September 16th, 2025. Contact: jiglesia@caha.es

Contents

1 Applications for observing time at Calar Alto	4
1.1 General information	4
1.2 Spanish open time at the CAHA 2.2- and 3.5-m telescopes	4
1.3 Proposals from PIs associated to non-Spanish institutions	4
1.4 Visitor and service observing modes	4
1.4.1 Visitor mode	4
1.4.2 Service mode	5
1.5 Ongoing surveys	5
1.5.1 On the 3.5-m telescope	5
1.5.2 On the 2.2-m telescope	6
2 Important to notice	6
2.1 Visits during the COVID-19 pandemic	6
2.2 CAFÉ	7
2.3 PANIC	7
3 How to prepare and submit a proposal	7
3.1 Calar Alto instrument pages	8
3.1.1 Instruments offered on the 3.5-m telescope	8
3.1.2 Instruments offered on the 2.2-m telescope	8
3.2 Science categories of proposals	8
3.3 Types of proposal	9
3.3.1 Re-submitted applications	9
3.3.2 PhD thesis projects	10
3.3.3 Long term or large projects	10
3.3.4 Testing new instruments	10
3.3.5 Visitor instruments	10
3.3.6 Multiple-instrument proposals	11
3.4 Choose Service or/and Visitor mode	11
3.5 Backup programs and “filler” proposals welcome.	11
3.6 Targets of Opportunity (ToO)	12
3.6.1 Override status of ToOs	12
3.7 Director’s Discretionary Time (DDT)	13
3.8 Time critical observations	13
4 Proposal evaluation by the TAC	13
5 How to proceed for accepted proposals	13
5.1 Target of Opportunity observations	14
5.1.1 How to trigger a ToO	15
5.1.2 Who can trigger a ToO?	15
5.1.3 Guidelines for ToOs and visitor astronomers	15
5.2 Service mode programs	15
5.3 Visitor mode programs	16

6	After observing in CAHA: publications and releases	16
6.1	Proprietary period of the data and acknowledgements to SVO	16
6.2	Mandatory acknowledgments or/and footnote for CAHA data	16
6.3	Report CAHA-based publications and possible press releases	17

List of Tables

1	3.5-m instruments available in semester 26A.	8
2	2.2-m instruments available in semester 26A.	8

List of Figures

1	Previous oversubscription factors on the 2.2 (blue) & 3.5 m (red) telescopes.	14
---	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----



1 Applications for observing time at Calar Alto

1.1 General information

As an ICTS (Spanish Unique Scientific and Technical Infrastructure; see the Appendix for a list of acronyms), the Calar Alto observatory offers to astronomers every semester through an open call for proposals, a minimum of 20% of the available observing time on its two main telescopes: the 2.2 meters and the 3.5 meters, the largest of its kind in mainland Europe.

Due to the new status of the observatory (CSIC and *Junta de Andalucía* in equal shares), the number of available observing nights for the Spanish community is notably larger since 2019. For this reason, Calar Alto encourages Spain-based astronomers to send their proposals, taking advantage of the new situation, in the national framework of *Centro Astronómico Hispano en Andalucía* (hereafter CAHA).

1.2 Spanish open time at the CAHA 2.2- and 3.5-m telescopes

The proposal PI (Principal Investigator) must be affiliated with a Spanish Institution at the time of submission (see exceptions in Sect. 1.3). CoIs (Co-Investigators) from all countries are welcome to participate along with any PI based in Spain.

1.3 Proposals from PIs associated to non-Spanish institutions

Proposals of PIs from international organizations may be granted with observing time only if they are extremely well rated by the CAHA TAC. Those proposals should, in particular, justify that they apply for CAHA time because they have no access to a similar instrument at their (inter)national facilities. Typically, up to 5% of the available open time might be granted to non-partners every semester.

1.4 Visitor and service observing modes

CAHA will accept programs both in visitor (that is, the PI or/and CoIs observe in person at Calar Alto) and in service mode – the latter type of observations being performed by the CAHA technical astronomers. The specifics of each mode are explained next.

1.4.1 Visitor mode

Visitor Mode (VM) means that the observations will be performed by the visiting astronomer(s) in a period fixed in advance. Limited buffer time could be reserved. If the requested observing conditions are demanding – (sub)arcsec seeing / photometric –, a backup program should be included in the proposal. It should also be discussed and approved by the TAC.

VM proposals are encouraged and will receive a higher priority to be scheduled. CAHA favors in particular the education of young researchers who have no or limited previous hands-on experience on a professional telescope. Thus, VM runs including PhD students or young postdocs as observers will be considered positively by the TAC.

Important note: CAHA may apply extraordinary and temporary restrictions about VM runs to ensure the health and well-being of its staff and visiting astronomers. See Sect. 2.1.

We kindly remind the PIs of VM proposals that visiting observers should be those specified in the proposal for the allocated nights, although they might be changed if needed or if new team members are to be incorporated (especially students).

If visitors are planning to go up to the observatory only for part of the allocated nights (e.g. to fine tune the observation strategy during the first night(s) of their run), "Partly service mode" may be requested.

1.4.2 Service mode

Service Mode (SM) programs will be executed as "A" (priority) and "B" (backup) classes, as specified in the letter of acceptance sent by the TAC secretary, namely:

- Service "A": Only for highly ranked proposals. The observations will be done in a queue mode (see exceptions below) and buffer time is allocated to ensure that most, if not all, of the foreseen data set is obtained at the end of the semester.
- Service "B": These programs are scheduled as backup, when all Service "A" programs (including those for guaranteed time) have got their data or cannot be executed anymore. This implies that time for "B" programs is allocated generally towards the end of the semester and only proposals whose objects have the appropriate visibility can be scheduled, or/and when average weather conditions are acceptable.

As specified in the letter of refusal (that is, proposals rated below the cutoff – which is not a hard boundary) sent to the PI by the TAC secretary, Service "C" programs will not be executed, except under exceptional circumstances. For example, when no more Service "A" nor "B" targets are observable for a given night, which is more likely at the end of a particularly good weather semester of observations.

1.5 Ongoing surveys

Since the successful ALHAMBRA, CALIFA, and CARMENES GTO surveys, Calar Alto offers large slots of observing time to ambitious, long-term projects requiring hundreds of nights, spread over several semesters. While this is good for the observatory in terms of legacy value, it implies that less nights remain available than in a "fully open time" multi-program observatory. Still, again as an ICTS, at least 20% of the time in CAHA is offered to open time proposals, with the following restrictions due to present-day surveys ongoing.

1.5.1 On the 3.5-m telescope

Since January 2021, there are three ongoing surveys at the 3.5m telescope:

- CARMENES Legacy-plus: extension of the CARMENES survey, detection and characterizations of planets around M-dwarfs, the occurrence rate of long-period giant planets (GJ3512-like planets).
- CAVITY: observations with PPAK/PMAS of galaxies inhabiting the loneliest regions of the local Universe.
- KOBE: observations with CARMENES of K-dwarfs orbited by potentially habitable exo-planets.

The agreements between CAHA and these three consortia protect these scientific cases. The PIs of any open time proposal that could overlap with the scientific cases mentioned above are encouraged to contact the observatory staff (coords@caha.es) to clarify whether there could be a conflict between their open time proposal and the corresponding legacy.

1.5.2 On the 2.2-m telescope

At the 2.2-m telescope, due to the high-cadence requirements of the [BHOLE](#) project (a long-term AGN survey) in progress, the observations of approved open time SM programs will be carried out in blocks of no more than three nights in a row. Only visitor mode time slots might, exceptionally, be extended to a maximum of 4 contiguous nights, if well justified in the proposal. Otherwise, split VM runs could be considered.

2 Important to notice

Should you need to interact with the CAHA technical astronomers to take real-time decisions at night, feel free to contact them by email (at service@caha.es), through Skype or Zoom chats, or directly by phone (+34 950 632 500 ext. 572 or 575).

You may have a look at your data almost immediately after they have been taken, by accessing them at cadata.caha.es, and reducing them on-the-fly with daytime calibrations or/and those taken at sunset, if any. According to the quick estimates found (SNR, limiting magnitude, etc.), you could then adapt the observing strategy during the night, if permitted by the instrumental setup and by the CAHA service observers.

2.1 Visits during the COVID-19 pandemic

During semester 26A there will be no limit to the number of visiting astronomers per proposal. However, this condition could be modified by the CAHA director at any time depending on the sanitary conditions.

In the post-pandemic era, CAHA encourages astronomers (with or without previous hands-on experience at a telescope) to visit us, at least for their first run (if more observations are scheduled later on).

2.2 CAFÉ

After the in-house upgrade (grating plus temperature-controlled room) and commissioning of the high-resolution, fiber-fed spectrograph at the 2.2 m, an improved CAFÉ is available reaching a radial velocity accuracy below $10 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$.

A pipeline developed by Jorge Lillo-Box (see [Lillo-Box et al. 2020](#)), is available to reduce CAFÉ spectra, including the automatic extraction of radial velocities for FGKM stars. The pipeline works with data from the current or previous semesters and, in addition to the raw spectra, the automatically reduced CAFÉ spectra will be made available to the PI, usually a few hours after the last observation of every CAFÉ night. Please contact coords@caha.es for further information about the CAFÉ pipeline.

NOTE: The temperature control could be not available during part of semester 26A, what could result in a not optimal stability of CAFÉ.

2.3 PANIC

The [PANoramic Infra-Red \(PANIC\)](#) camera has been upgraded. The former mosaic of four HAWAII-2RG with poor cosmetic quality was successfully replaced by a new single HAWAII-4RG detector.

Therefore, PANIC will be offered in open time in semester 26A under shared risk conditions. Information about the instrument can be found in the [PANIC website](#). **Potential applicants can contact A. Guijarro (guijarro@caha.es) for any doubt they may have related to this instrument.**

3 How to prepare and submit a proposal

Starting in semester 21B, applications must be submitted using the new [web-based submission tool](#). This tool is extensively commented on, it should be self-explained even for first-time users.

The details of the proposal must be included in a PDF file that does not exceed two pages in length, INCLUDING FIGURES AND REFERENCES.

Our submission system usually accepts proposals from (dates may vary by some weeks):

1. September, deadline in October for the spring (1 January–30 June) semester.
2. March, with a deadline in April for the fall (1 July–31 December) semester.

First-time users must register in the application, and then login to start preparing their proposals. The astrophysical context and other relevant details of the proposal must be described in a PDF file (2 pages maximum, except for PhD and long term projects).

In the following sections, we explain some specific details useful for applicants.

3.1 Calar Alto instrument pages

First make sure the instrument you are interested in and applying for is available during the semester of the call, checking Tables 3.1.1 and 3.1.2, as well as the [associated webpages](#).

For semester 26A, the following instruments will be available:

3.1.1 Instruments offered on the 3.5-m telescope

Acronym	Instrument full name
CARMENES [†]	<i>Calar Alto high-Resolution search for M dwarfs with Exo-earth with Near-infrared and optical Échelle Spectrographs</i>
OMEGA2000	Not an acronym!
PMAS [†]	<i>Potsdam MultiAperture Spectrophotometer</i>

[†]One can switch from CARMENES to PMAS (and vice versa) in a minute by moving the front-end plane mirror.

Table 1: 3.5-m instruments available in semester 26A.

IMPORTANT: Due to organizational reasons, OMEGA2000 will only be mounted for ≤ 1 week every about two months. Thus, scheduled nights will be grouped in this way: that is only 2 to 3 OMEGA2000 runs shall be planned in semester 26A.

3.1.2 Instruments offered on the 2.2-m telescope

Acronym	Instrument full name
AstraLux	Not an acronym!
PANIC	<i>PANoramic Infra-Red Camera</i>
CAFÉ	<i>Calar Alto Fiber-fed Échelle spectrograph</i>
CAFOS	<i>Calar Alto Faint Object Spectrograph</i>
PlanetCam	Planetary Camera. Only VM, see section 3.3.5.

Table 2: 2.2-m instruments available in semester 26A.

IMPORTANT: Due to organizational reasons, PANIC will only be mounted for ≤ 1 week every about two months. Thus, scheduled nights will be grouped in this way: that is only 2 to 3 PANIC runs shall be planned in semester 26A.

3.2 Science categories of proposals

To facilitate the revision by the TAC, please choose the right scientific category for your proposal. Remember that there is no specific panel per area in the CAHA TAC. Despite our referees have a broad astrophysical knowledge, targeting the right category will ensure a fair distribution and specialized revision of the proposals by the right referees.

The following science categories are defined for proposals submitted to any CAHA telescope/instrument:

- Cosmology / intergalactic medium / clusters of galaxies / galaxies
- Active galactic nuclei
- Interstellar medium / star formation / Milky Way
- Massive / hot stars
- Low-mass / cold stars / exoplanets
- Solar system
- Instrumentation

If your science topic is very specific – or multiple – and it is not listed in the current categories, please specify the closest related field.

3.3 Types of proposal

One should specify the right type of proposal to make sure it will be evaluated by the TAC taking into account its specificities. Failure to do so may result in an incomplete revision and evaluation of the proposal.

3.3.1 Re-submitted applications

Please also help the TAC by providing complete information regarding previous applications, including the former application reference (e.g. 25B-3.5-###).

Projects which have lost observing time due to weather or technical problems (including unavailability of a telescope or an instrument due to unexpected events) **MUST** be flagged. The same is true for proposals which had been rejected previously and are re-submitted. The following options, that should be accompanied by the reference number of the previous proposal, are available:

- Losses due to bad Weather;
- Losses due to Technical (telescope/instrument) issues;
- Re-submission of a proposal previously rejected by the CAHA TAC;
- Continuation of a previous successful proposal (extending over more than a semester), or/and Cancelled due to force majeure (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic).

In case the reason to resubmit is still not known at the time of submission, e.g. because the ongoing semester data has not yet been acquired, we encourage you to re-submit your proposal, specifying that you are pending on the outcome of observations to be taken in the current period. The TAC will request the observatory for updated information about a given proposal at the time of the TAC meeting, and the updated status of any proposal resubmitted will be taken into account during the new TAC evaluation.

3.3.2 PhD thesis projects

Proposals may be flagged to indicate work related to a PhD thesis. An additional page describing the logistics and status of the doctoral project (planned and/or being accomplished) in the attached PDF file is allowed (3 pages in total). The purpose of flagging PhD programs is to request a particularly thorough initial application, with an outline of all anticipated observations needed by the student.

In return, PhD programs can then usually expect subsequent approval within the framework of the initial request, as long as a satisfactory update on the PhD student's progress is provided in subsequent applications. CAHA encourages "hands-on" training of students at the telescope; the TAC will consider positively PhD-related proposals asking for VM runs, with the student (supervisors are welcome, too) coming to observe.

3.3.3 Long term or large projects

Long/large projects (more than 2 semesters and/or more than 10 nights per semester) can also be flagged to indicate that further applications are to be expected. The detailed logistics of the project must be supplied in an extra page in the PDF file (3 pages in total). If approved, however, new applications have to be submitted each semester, which will be evaluated again in competition with all other applications. Nevertheless, the TAC will consider positively that a large/long proposal was previously granted time and presents clear progress to be renewed.

Note: Because of the ongoing legacies on the 3.5-m telescope (see Sect. 1.5.1), large or/and long-term (demanding in terms of nights applied for each semester) programs could be difficult to schedule on the 3.5 m in semester 26A. The same is true for the 2.2-m telescope due to the ongoing AGN survey with CAFOS.

3.3.4 Testing new instruments

Commissioning runs of new instruments have to be flagged. They don't need to contain a scientific program themselves, but such a scientific program has to be applied for separately. A detailed breakdown of the time request for the commissioning run is expected. Since January 2004, time for technical tests must be approved by the director (director@caha.es). Please contact the observatory well (months) in advance for further details.

3.3.5 Visitor instruments

Teams aiming at bringing their own instrument at any of the Calar Alto telescopes must sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CAHA (director@caha.es).

PlanetCam is available in collaboration

The two-channel (0.38–1.7 μm) lucky-imaging camera (cf. this [PASP paper](#)) is fully operational at Calar Alto and can be mounted either on the 1.23- or the 2.2-m telescope. Although the use of the camera corresponds to its owner – the Planetary Science Group (PSG) at University of Basque Country –, in its visiting instrument mode at Calar Alto

Observatory, the use of PlanetCam can be requested for any other program through a collaboration with the GCP. Potential applicants, please get in touch with Professor Agustín Sánchez-Lavega (agustin.sanchez@ehu.es).

3.3.6 Multiple-instrument proposals

In some cases, for a given telescope and proposal, various instruments are required, or are simply useful (e.g. any CCD camera plus filters to do basic photometry for ToOs). In this case, the applicant must define different runs in the proposal, each of them with the required instrumental setup.

If instruments from different CAHA telescopes are needed (that is, one on the 2.2 AND another on the 3.5 m) or sufficient (one on the 2.2 m OR another one on the 3.5 m), TWO different proposals must be submitted, so that each one will receive a specific reference number. Both proposals will be evaluated by the same referees, but observing time may be allocated for only one of the telescopes (depending on the over-subscription factors, instrument availability, etc.) if most of the science can still be done with one single telescope.

3.4 Choose Service or/and Visitor mode

Service Mode (SM) is routinely available for a large fraction of the observing time. As in the case of multiple-instrument proposals, the applicant must define different runs in the proposal, each with the preferred (service or visitor) mode. The Calar Alto TAC or/and the director may decide to override the mode preferred by the applicant if necessary (see important restriction in Sect. 2.1 due to COVID19).

For top ranked, class “A” proposals (the class is indicated in the letter to the applicant about the TAC evaluation), either in SM or VM, the aim of the observatory is to complete most of the requested program within the semester. In addition to the regularly scheduled observing run(s), buffer time could also be assigned to compensate for weather or technical losses. Buffers are scheduled for these best proposals, during which the Calar Alto staff will try to finish the observations in SM, if there are missing data left after the first attempt.

VERY IMPORTANT: DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNING THE EXECUTION OF SERVICE OBSERVATIONS MUST BE PROVIDED TO CALAR ALTO STAFF (e-mail to service@caha.es) AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE (except for ToOs/DDTs, see Sects. 3.6/3.7), FOR ANY SM RUN. THIS WAY, THE CALAR ALTO STAFF WILL BE ABLE TO CAREFULLY PREPARE YOUR OBSERVATIONS, GUARANTEEING THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF THE OBSERVATIONS.

3.5 Backup programs and “filler” proposals welcome.

All applications requiring exceptionally good observing conditions have to supply a backup program. Such demanding programs will have more chances to be completed in SM blocks, waiting for the best observing conditions.

Filler programs that provide essentially bright objects, that can still give useful data even under poor transparency/full moon conditions, are welcome to take advantage of lower quality nights. Alternatively, very clear but high-seeing nights could still be useful to observe Low-Surface Brightness (LSB) but very extended objects, e.g. large nebulae or faint, diffuse LSB structures around galaxies.

Such filler programs will be considered positively by the TAC, since they improve the overall observing statistics and maximize the scientific return of the observations.

3.6 Targets of Opportunity (ToO)

Researchers who expect to observe unpredictable events or “Targets of Opportunity” (ToOs) with the 2.2- or/and 3.5-m telescopes at Calar Alto are required to submit a general application for observing time, like for standard observations. In this application, the scientific case, the aim, the method and the (total, spread over various triggers) time required for the proposed observations should be presented. The application will be discussed by the Calar Alto TAC. In order to be approved, the proposal should be highly rated. A program not approved as ToO by the TAC will not be approved as DDT (see Sect. 3.7) by the director during the same semester. The ToO nature of this kind of proposals must be explicitly stated in the PDF file.

NOTE: Because of internal organizational reasons, a maximum of two ToO triggers will be attended at a given night, being selected by arrival order.

Should the proposed observations be approved by the TAC, the approval is limited to one semester. If it is necessary to continue ToO observations after this period, a new application is required, together with a status report of the results obtained thus far.

CAHA does recommend that competitive teams collaborate in all cases, for a quick, high scientific return of all ToO observations. In case two competing ToO programs have been accepted by the TAC and both teams trigger an alert on the same target, CAHA reserves the express right to share data between them, regardless of who triggered first.

3.6.1 Override status of ToOs

ToO observations generally have an override status. Exceptions will be defined beforehand by the director of CAHA (e.g. for time critical and GTO programs). In case more than one ToO occurs in the same night, CAHA staff reserves the right to restrict the observations.

If possible (e.g. light curve decay studies), follow-up observations – if approved by the TAC – should be scheduled in advance once the initial trigger is performed, until the total time allocated to a given ToO is exhausted during the semester. Otherwise, CAHA reserves the right to cancel the follow-up.

If, at the end of the semester, hours of observation remain unused for a given ToO, these hours are lost for the next semester. A new proposal must be presented to attempt to continue the ToO program, which should include the results of the triggers already performed. Concerning the programs interrupted by ToOs, the observing time lost because of the ToO trigger will be compensated, if this is possible (in service mode for ToOs triggered during visitor mode runs). See Sect. 5.1.1 to know how to trigger ToOs.

3.7 Director’s Discretionary Time (DDT)

A small fraction of the available time (about 5%) will be set aside for short-term allocation by the Calar Alto director, as discretionary time (DDT). These time requests, of no more than 3 (THREE) hours, overheads included, are reserved exclusively for brief but expected high yield new observations, where the delay entailed by the standard application procedure would spoil the science. DDT observations will be performed in SM, except in a few peculiar cases where a visiting observer (PI or CoI) is needed. International PIs are welcome to send well justified DDT proposals, demonstrating in particular the uniqueness of CAHA instrumentation to reach the expected high-impact results. Inquiries are made using the CAHA [web form for DDT service observations](#).

3.8 Time critical observations

PIs of proposals containing time critical observations must include the list of dates and exact times of these observations. In case that several dates fit for a given target, we recommend to include in the proposal the complete list of dates, specifying the priority of each of them.

Should the list of dates and times of the time critical observations will not be included in the proposal, the priority of the observations will be set to minimum and it could be overridden by any other time critical proposal.

4 Proposal evaluation by the TAC

The CAHA TAC meets twice a year to select the best proposals, after rating and commenting extensively all of them. The cut (which cannot be a hard boundary) between accepted/rejected proposals depends on the ratings and on over-subscription (the total number of nights applied for vs. the available nights in open time for a given semester). The over-subscription factors on the 2.2 & 3.5 m from previous semesters are visible in Fig. 1.

In addition to the CAHA director and TAC secretary (the latter non voting), the TAC is composed of half a dozen of internationally recognized astronomers having wide, complementary expertise. The current TAC composition is visible at [this web page](#).

5 How to proceed for accepted proposals

PIs will be notified by (electronic) letter as soon as possible – usually within ten working days after the TAC meeting – of the outcome of their proposal evaluations, including the final comments by both referees, after being checked also by the TAC chair and secretary.

For accepted proposals, the final number of nights allocated, pre-scheduled dates (always tentative) and observing mode (service or visitor) are specified in the letter of acceptance sent by the TAC secretary.

Those dates of observations (both SM nights and VM runs) cannot be changed by the PI, except in case of obvious scheduling errors (e.g. our misunderstanding of

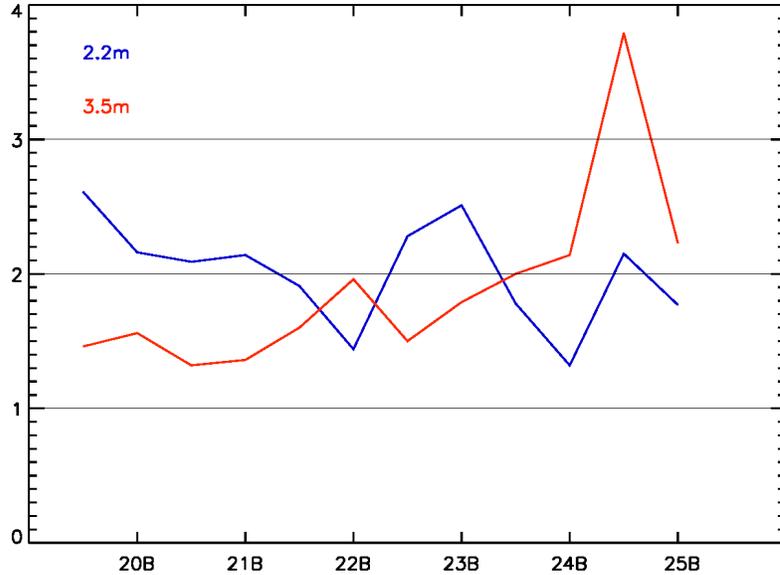


Figure 1: Previous oversubscription factors on the 2.2 (blue) & 3.5 m (red) telescopes.

time critical observations night/hour). Nonetheless, Calar Alto keeps the right to perform slight schedule adjustments during the semester to accommodate other programs, always trying to benefit the best rated proposals, including possible buffer time depending of the outcome of previous VM runs or SM nights.

Hereafter we describe the usual way to proceed depending on the type of proposal.

5.1 Target of Opportunity observations

We recommend applicants of ToO proposals to favor instruments frequently mounted at the telescopes to improve the chances to have a trigger executed, taking into account the ongoing surveys (namely: CAFOS on the 2.2 m and CARMENES on the 3.5 m). Alternatively, asking for multiple instruments (or/and telescopes) in the same proposal (see Sect. 3.3.6).

ToO observations with a given instrument will only be accepted if other regular open time proposal is awarded time with this instrument. This way we ensure that GTO proposals with this instrument will never be overridden by a ToO proposal. If a ToO proposal asks for observing time with several instruments, the observing time awarded to instruments not fulfilling the above condition will be lost. A maximum of two ToO triggers will be attended at a given night, being selected by arrival order.

5.1.1 How to trigger a ToO

PI/CoIs of allowed ToO programs will be notified by email of the procedure to be followed to trigger a ToO observation.

The CAHA staff on duty will confirm the reception of the material ASAP (feedback at night is ensured all year long, but it might be slower during the day, in particular during the week-ends/holidays). The observations will then be attempted promptly if possible – instrumental setup, target visibility and weather permitting.

In exceptional cases (e.g., PI traveling with limited Internet access), the night observers (CAHA staff first, in case of a VM night) may be alerted at the observing rooms by phone (+34 950 632 500, ext. 572 or 575), but only after the written request to service@caha.es has been sent.

IMPORTANT: ToOs asking for follow-up observations of a target must be triggered BEFORE 14:00 (local time) of the same night of the observations. Otherwise they will not be attended!

5.1.2 Who can trigger a ToO?

Under no circumstance a researcher without an approved ToO program can contact the CAHA staff, particularly the night observers (including VM programs), to conduct an observation which has not been approved by the TAC or by the director under a DDT.

Only the PI or CoIs of ToO programs accepted by the TAC can trigger their programs during the assigned semester.

5.1.3 Guidelines for ToOs and visitor astronomers

When a ToO program is activated during a VM run, the CAHA staff will communicate it to the visiting astronomer and the time lost, when possible, will be compensated ASAP (most likely in service mode, during available buffers). Visitor astronomers cannot begin any ToO or any other observation (not described in the proposal approved by the TAC) on their own, without previous consent of the CAHA staff and/or director.

5.2 Service mode programs

We kindly ask the PI (or any CoI) of every SM proposal to send detailed instructions, at least TWO weeks in advance before the first planned observation, as specified in the letter of acceptance contacting the Calar Alto support astronomers through coords@caha.es.

Last-day changes (in particular from Friday to Sunday and on Spanish holidays) in the setup may not be accepted or simply not feasible, except if fully justified by the outcome of the previous observing night.

Informing the CAHA service staff in advance will allow us to secure the scheduling and setup (e.g. filters and grisms) of the instruments on the 2.2- and 3.5-m telescopes in time, and keep the chance to iterate with the PI, if needed, to fine tune the observing strategy. Changes to this rule will be only accepted under exceptional circumstances (e.g. sudden illness).

Programs in service mode are generally performed during service blocks. Although tentative observing slots are assigned for each program, the observations will be performed in a pseudo-queue mode. This gives the observatory more flexibility to react on changing observing conditions, so that the programs will benefit from higher efficiency.

5.3 Visitor mode programs

We suggest that all visiting astronomers contact (coords@caha.es) the Calar Alto Astronomy Dept. (weeks) in advance for any questions about their VM observing run.

Any visiting astronomer must fill in the [arrival form](#) to inform, at least TWO weeks in advance of their trip to the observatory, about their travel plan, booking of room and meals, as well as the basic setup of the instrument they will use. The setup and targets should be identical to the ones accepted by the TAC, except if not available for some reason, or if fully justified for unexpected scientific/technical reasons; the setup may then be changed accordingly (e.g other filter or grism) after discussion with the CAHA staff.

6 After observing in CAHA: publications and releases

6.1 Proprietary period of the data and acknowledgements to SVO

Proprietary period: All observing data from open time programs will be made public through the Spanish Virtual Observatory (SVO) after a proprietary period of one year after the end of the observations. DDT data are publicly available after three months.

Acknowledgements: We kindly remind you to include the following acknowledgements if you are using data from any CAHA telescope & instrument archived at SVO: *This research has made use of the Spanish Virtual Observatory (<http://svo.cab.inta-csic.es>) supported by the MINECO/FEDER through grant AyA2017-84089.*

6.2 Mandatory acknowledgments or/and footnote for CAHA data

Every publication based on CAHA data must always contain a footnote as follows: *Based on observations collected at Centro Astronómico Hispano en Andalucía (CAHA) at Calar Alto, proposal 26A-***.***, operated jointly by Junta de Andalucía and Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (IAA-CSIC).*

Alternatively, a similar phrasing appearing in the paper acknowledgements is acceptable, but **ALWAYS SPECIFYING THE ASSOCIATED CAHA PROPOSAL REFERENCE.**

Failure to do so may result in penalties being applied by the CAHA TAC for future proposal submissions to any telescope in Calar Alto from the same PI and CoI(s).

6.3 Report CAHA-based publications and possible press releases

CAHA kindly asks you to inform us (prensa@caha.es), as soon as possible before publication, of every recently accepted paper based on data collected at our facilities.

The most appealing publications may be worth a press release. Please contact us at prensa@caha.es in advance (that is, well before publication in a given journal) about any breakthrough result based on CAHA data, so as to study its possible public diffusion, coordinated if needed with the press office(s) of the PI & CoI institute(s). The Calar Alto and IAA press officers will distribute the press release to a few selected journalists, committed to strictly respect any embargo imposed by the authors or publisher.

For any question related to this call for proposals, please contact the TAC secretary jiglesia@caha.es . Calar Alto welcomes feedback from its users' community.



Acronyms

CAHA	<i>Centro Astronómico Hispano en Andalucía</i> (Hispanic Astronomical Center in Andalusia)
CfP	Call for Proposals
CoI	Co-Investigator
CSIC	<i>Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas</i> (Spanish Superior Research Council)
DLR	<i>Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V.</i> (German Aerospace Center)
DDT	Director Discretionary Time
EC	Executive Committee
ESA	European Spatial Agency
GCP	Grupo de Ciencias Planetarias (UPV/EHU) (Group of Planetary Sciences at University of Basque Country)
GTO	Guaranteed Time Observations
IAA	<i>Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía</i> (Institute of Astrophysics of Andalusia)
ICTS	<i>Infraestructura Científico-Técnica Singular</i> (Singular Scientific and Technical Infrastructure)
LSB	Low-Surface Brightness (object)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPIA	<i>Max-Planck-Institut für Astronomie</i> (Max Planck Institute for Astronomy)
OPTICON	OPTical Infrared COordination Network for astronomy
PI	Principal Investigator
RIA	<i>Red de Infraestructuras en Astronomía</i> (Spanish Astronomy Infrastructures Network)
SAC	Scientific Advisory Committee
SM	Service Mode (observations)
SVO	Spanish Virtual Observatory
TAC	Time Allocation Committee
ToO	Target of Opportunity
VM	Visitor Mode (observations)