The Observing Programmes Committee (OPC) is the body in charge of reviewing, evaluating on scientific merit, and ranking the proposals submitted in response to a call for the use of ESO observing facilities of the La Silla Paranal Observatory and thereby advise the Director General on the distribution of observing time, taking account of ESO’s scientific policy. The OPC is assisted in its task by Expert Panels covering specific scientific areas, called Categories. The OPC Categories are listed below. When submitting a proposal, the Principal Investigator and Co-investigators are requested to choose the appropriate OPC category for their proposal.

A - COSMOLOGY AND THE INTERGALACTIC MEDIUM

A1  Galaxies in their environment (e.g. galaxies in groups and clusters, merging galaxies, galaxy interactions, ram-pressure stripping of galaxies in groups and clusters)

A2  Global properties of galaxy groups, clusters and proto-structures including the intracluster medium

A3  Dark matter and gravitational lensing

A4  Intergalactic medium, circumgalactic medium and intervening absorption systems (e.g. Lyman alpha clouds, damped Lyman alpha systems and associated galaxies)

A5  Discovery surveys and the statistical study of galaxy properties (e.g. spectroscopic and redshift surveys, identifications, large scale structure, galaxy luminosity function and mass function, surveys for active galactic nuclei)

A6  Reionization and cosmic dawn (probes of reionization, galaxies in the epoch of reionization)
A7  Cosmological parameters (e.g. distance scale, dark energy, fundamental physics).

B - GALAXIES

B1  The Milky way and local group galaxies

B2  Resolved and unresolved stellar populations in galaxies beyond the Local Group (e.g. stellar metallicity, star formation histories)

B3  Galaxy structure, dynamics and kinematics (e.g. bulges, disks, morphology, in/outflows, dark matter inside galaxies, stellar orbits)

B4  Dwarf galaxies, stellar clusters in galaxies and satellite galaxies

B5  Galactic centre, galaxy nuclei and supermassive black holes

B6  Physics of Active Galactic Nuclei

B7  Interstellar medium and star formation in galaxies (e.g., in/outflows, starburst galaxies, gas-phase metallicity, dust in galaxies)

C - INTERSTELLAR MEDIUM, STAR FORMATION and PLANETARY SYSTEMS

C1  Gas and dust, giant molecular clouds, cool and hot gas, diffuse and translucent clouds

C2  Chemical processes in the interstellar medium

C3  Star forming regions, globules, protostars, HII regions

C4  Pre-main-sequence stars (massive PMS stars, Herbig Ae/Be stars and T Tauri stars)

C5  Outflows, stellar jets, HH objects

C6  Main-sequence stars with circumstellar matter, early evolution

C7  Young binaries, brown dwarfs, exosolar planet searches

C8  Solar system (planets, comets, small bodies)

D - STELLAR EVOLUTION

D1  Main-sequence stars
D2 Post-main-sequence stars, giants, supergiants, AGB stars, post-AGB stars

D3 Pulsating stars and stellar activity

D4 Mass loss and winds

D5 Supernovae, pulsars

D6 Planetary nebulae, nova remnants and supernova remnants

D7 Pre-white dwarfs and white dwarfs, neutron stars

D8 Evolved binaries, black-hole candidates, novae, X-ray binaries, CVs

D9 Gamma-ray and X-ray bursters

D10 OB associations, open and globular clusters, extragalactic star clusters

D11 Individual stars in external galaxies, resolved stellar populations

D12 Distance Scale - stars

If you have any questions about this page, please contact opo@eso.org

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