

The Institute of Astrophysics at the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (IA-FORTH) invites applications for several PhD positions broadly on supermassive black hole binaries to work in Dr Maria Charisi’s group, funded by the ERC Starting Grant [MMMonsters](#). MMMonsters aims to detect supermassive black hole binaries using electromagnetic (time-domain) and gravitational-wave (PTA) data and the combination of the two.

Applicants who can connect their previous research to the objectives of MMMonsters are encouraged to apply, but all applications will be considered equally. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to join international collaborations (NANOGrav, EPTA, IPTA collaborations, the LSST AGN Collaboration and the LISA Consortium) and will benefit from extensive networking and mentoring opportunities.

The position comes with competitive salary, a generous travel package, and opportunities to spend extended research visits in the US. The expected start date is in the Fall of 2026. The group and IA-FORTH are committed to diversity, equity and inclusion, encourages applications from women and underrepresented minorities, and supports a flexible and family-friendly work environment.

Candidates must have a Master’s in astronomy, physics or a related field by the time of the appointment. Applicants should send to mmmonsters.phd@gmail.com: (1) a cover letter (1-2 pages), (2) unofficial transcripts with grades of Master’s & Bachelor’s courses (3) a CV including publications (if any). (4) They should also arrange for two recommendation letters to be sent directly to the same email address by the deadline. For more information, please contact Dr. Charisi directly at maria.charisi@ia.forth.gr

Deadline: April 15 2026

[IA-FORTH](#) is a premier research institute in Greece. Founded in 2019, it provides an international and dynamic research environment with 10 permanent researchers, 11 postdocs and 18 PhD students. Its members perform cutting-edge research in a variety of topics including supermassive black holes (Charisi, Cassadio, Liodakis, Papadakis, Pavlidou), compact objects and pulsar timing (Antoniadis, Reig, Zezas), and galaxy evolution (Charmandaris, Diaz-Santos, Tassis). IA currently hosts three additional ERC grants led by Dr. Cassadio (radio observations of quasars), Dr Liodakis (multi-wavelength polarization of supermassive black holes) and Prof Pavlidou (cartography of the Milky Way) and an ERA chair in Astro-informatics led by Dr Starck (CEA/Saclay, France). IA-FORTH also manages the Skinakas Observatory with 3 small and medium-size telescopes, located at an altitude of 1750m just 60km from the Institute.

IA-FORTH boasts a tight-knit and inclusive community, which fosters close collaborations among the different groups, and is committed to the professional development of its early-career members. The institute has established collaborative links with leading institutes in the US, such as Caltech, NASA/JPL, CfA/Harvard, Vanderbilt, UC Berkeley, Stanford, as well as in Europe including CEA/Saclay and Obs. de Paris (France), MPE, MPP and MPIfR (Germany), and Cambridge (UK).

IA-FORTH is located in Heraklion, a vibrant medium-sized city in Crete. Located in the biggest island of Greece with international visitors throughout the year, it maintains a very well-connected airport, phenomenal food scene (with plenty high-end restaurants) and a strong cultural identity with multi-cultural influences and historical gems. It is also surrounded by magnificent nature, beaches and mountains, with year-round outdoor activities.