HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Ministry of Digital Governance

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FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY - HELLAS
INSTITUTE OF ASTROPHYSICS

One (1) Undergraduate student positions in the project

"BOOTES"

Black hOle Optical-polarization TimE-domain Survey

(Call: ERC-2022-STG, Project Number 101076343)
Funded under HORIZON ERC Grants* - European *Research Council (ERC)

Funded by
the European Union

Ref. 239344
Heraklion, 20.10.2026

The Institute of Astrophysics (IA) of the Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH), in the framework of the project BOOTES, (Call: ERC-Stg-2022, Proposal number: 101076343) funded under European Union's Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation is seeking to recruit one (1) Undergraduate student.

Title: Optical polarization observations of blazars and tidal disruption events.

Job Description:
The Black hOle Optical-polarization TimE-domain Survey (BOOTES) aims to study the polarized light coming from supermassive black holes and understand the processes of accretion disk and jet formation. Specifically, it aims to deliver the first systematic high-cadence optical polarization monitoring of blazars, and the first systematic optical polarization follow-up of tidal disruption events (TDE). BOOTES will be generating a large amount of polarimetric data through observations at the Skinakas observatory that would require telescope operator/observers.

Within the framework of BOOTES, the undergraduate students will be working on the acquisition, and data analysis of optical polarization observations at the Skinakas observatory for both blazars and TDEs, for the duration of the upcoming observing season (January-December 2027). BOOTES has been granted 75% of the telescope time, the student will be expected to be present at the telescope for every observing night (three weeks per month). When not observing, the undergraduate is expected to work on the data analysis of the observations.

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Required qualifications:
Candidates need to be fluent in English.
Candidates must be registered in an undergraduate Program in Physics or related fields from a Greek University.
Candidates must have background in programming and in astrophysics (formal courses and/or projects).
Candidates must have experience in optical polarization observations and data analysis (experience with RoboPol and RAKI are desired qualifications).
Candidates must have experience in telescope operations.
Candidates must be available to start and present in Crete by the starting date.
Candidates must have a driver's license.

Evaluation criteria:
1) Background in optical polarization observations and data analysis (30%)
2) Experience with telescope operations (40%)
3) Knowledge of English (30%)

Location: IA - FORTH, Heraklion Crete GREECE
Start Date: January 1, 2027
Project Duration: 12 months.
Monthly salary: based on experience and qualifications

Application Submission:
Interested candidates who meet the aforementioned requirements are kindly asked to submit their applications, no later than **November 6th, 2026, 23:59 local Greece time** to the address (info@ia.forth.gr), with cc to Dr. Ioannis Liodakis (liodakis@ia.forth.gr).

In order to be considered, the application must include:
1) Application Form (please download file from the job announcement webpage https://www.ia.forth.gr/employment-opportunities)
2) Brief CV

Any application received after the deadline will not be considered for the selection.

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Contact

For information and questions regarding the application and selection procedure, candidates are asked to contact the secretariat (info@ia.forth.gr), tel. +30 2810-394200.
For information and questions about the advertised position and the research activity of the group or the institute, please contact Dr. Ioannis Liodakis (liodakis@ia.forth.gr).

Evaluation procedure

Applications will be evaluated by a three-member evaluation committee. In case of interview procedure, applicants will be invited to participate in person or teleconference.
In case of titles and qualifications awarded by foreign Higher Education Institutions, the provisions of the Law 55/2023 (article 36) and 4957/2022 (article 304) are implemented.
The results of the selection will be announced on the website of IA-FORTH. Applicants have the right to appeal the selection decision, by addressing their written objection to the IA secretariat within five days since the results announcement on the web. Objections are submitted in one of the following ways: in person, by an authorized person, by post, by courier. They also have the right to access (a) the files of the applicants as well as (b) the table of applicants' scores (ranking of applicants results). All the above information related to the selection procedure will be available at the secretariat of IA-FORTH in line with the Hellenic Data Protection Authority. Access to personal data of co-applicants shall be limited to personal data (and relevant data) and supporting documents which have been the basis of the evaluation of the applicants for the specific post(s). Prior to the announcement of the personal data and/or documents of the co-applicants to the applicant, FORTH will inform the data subjects in an appropriate way.
The selected applicants will be notified personally regarding the success of his/her application and will be requested to submit certified copies of his/her degrees. If the submitted documents do not agree with the original application, the applicant will be dismissed.

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FORTH is compliant with all legal procedures for the processing of personal data as defined by the Regulation EU/2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data. FORTH processes the personal data and relevant supporting documents that you have submitted to us. Processing of that data is carried out exclusively for the needs and purposes of this specific call. Such data shall not be transmitted to or communicated to any third party unless required by law.

FORTH retains the above data up to the announcement of the final results of the call, unless further process and reservation is required by law or for purposes of exercise, enforcement, prosecution of certain one's legitimate legal rights' as defined in the Regulation EU/2016/679 and/or in national law.

Under the Regulation EU/2016/679 applicants have the rights to be informed about your personal data, access to, rectification and erasure, restrictions of process and objection to as provided by applicable regulation and national laws. We acknowledge also to you, that you have the right to file a complaint to the national Data Protection Authority. For any further information regarding exercise of your personal data protection rights, you may contact the Data Protection Officer at FORTH at dpo@admin.forth.gr.

Applicants have the right to withdraw your application and consent for the processing of your personal data at any time. We inform you that, in this case, FORTH shall destroy such documents and/or supporting documents submitted and shall delete the related personal data.