



## Call for applications for the SAAO Prize PhD Scholarship

The South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) invites applications for the SAAO Prize PhD Scholarship from academically excellent students who wish to pursue PhD studies in optical or multi-wavelength astrophysics. Applicants must be South African citizens who have, or are studying towards, an MSc degree in physics, astrophysics, or a closely related area, and must be ready to register for a PhD at the start of the 2019 academic year.

The scholarship will be based at SAAO, and provides a stipend of R180 000 per year, as well as support for equipment and travel. The successful applicant will be expected to register at a South African university by end of February 2019. Depending on their choice of project, the student may be free to choose a university, or be required to register at the university of a co-supervisor. The following projects are available in this round:

- Probing galaxy evolution through diffuse light in dense environments  
Supervisors: Ros Skelton (ros@saa.ac.za) and Sarah Blyth (UCT; sarblyth@ast.uct.ac.za)/Ilani Loubser (NWU; Ilani.Loubser@nwu.ac.za)
- Observational studies of Centaurs, interesting and transitional minor planets  
Supervisor: Amanda Sickafoose (amanda@saa.ac.za)
- Discovery and Characterization of Near-Earth Asteroids  
Supervisors: Amanda Sickafoose (amanda@saa.ac.za) and Nicolas Erasmus (nerasmus@saa.ac.za)
- Optical and radio transient sources  
Supervisors: Retha Pretorius (retha@saa.ac.za), David Buckley (dibnob@saa.ac.za), and Alida Odendaal (UFS; WinkA@ufs.ac.za)

Applicants are encouraged to contact the potential supervisors before applying, in order to find out more about these projects, although they do not need to choose a project at this stage. To apply, send a motivation letter, CV, and academic transcripts to [scholarship@saa.ac.za](mailto:scholarship@saa.ac.za), and arrange for two reference letters to be sent to the same address, by 3 August.

**For more information, including project descriptions and an application guide, please visit <https://www.saa.ac.za/scholarships>**

