

National Trainee Programme



New Positions Open for 2017!

For the fourth time, the Swiss Space Office of the State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI/SSO) has initiated a National Trainee Programme (NTP) to foster and promote space careers for young engineers and scientists. The SERI/SSO has entrusted the Swiss Space Center to implement the programme and act as national point of contact. The successful candidate will be hired by the Swiss Space Center (EPFL) to work on dedicated space projects in ESA centers. He/She will work with the European Space Agency (ESA) on a project identified in accordance with the Swiss Space Implementation Plan (SSIP), corresponding to the main or complementary technological lines included in the different ESA Programmes.

The NTP is an extraordinary program to work for ESA and gain valuable experience in the development and operation of space missions. NTPs gain valuable experience to launch their career in the space business in industry, research or, of course, at ESA. This, in addition to the rich personal experience of living and working in another country within a diverse and international environment, makes the NTP program very unique.

Please also see ESA's webpage on Carrers@ESA

For 2017, eleven topics are proposed (the detailed description can be found by clicking on your topic of interest):

- Life Support - Spaceship EAC (EAC, Cologne)
- Procurement Division for Science, Robotic Exploration and Space (ESTEC, Noordwijk)
- A radiation belt model for INTEGRAL (ESAC, Madrid)
- MEMS & Advanced Additive Manufacturing (ESTEC, Noordwijk)
- Characterization of High-Performance Time and Frequency Generation Systems (ESTEC, Noordwijk)
- Low Complexity Optical LEO-to-ground Links (ESTEC, Noordwijk)
- Systems engineering including CDF (ESTEC, Noordwijk)
- Advanced Manufacturing for Space Applications (ESTEC, Noordwijk)
- Advanced concepts in neurobiology and neuroinformatics (ESTEC, Noordwijk)
- Advanced concepts in computational statistics (ESTEC, Noordwijk)
- Advanced concepts in condensed matter physics (ESTEC, Noordwijk)

The following special conditions apply for all the job descriptions:

Limited to Swiss citizens

Applicant shall hold a master degree (or equivalent) obtained within the last 3 years

The contract is limited to 1 year, renewable 1 year if agreed by all the parties concerned

Only one application per candidate should be sent, to apply for more than one position, a priority list needs to be provided in the letter of motivation

Location: ESA sites (as mentioned in the offers)

Beginning of contract 1st December 2017

Please send your application electronically in PDF format (CV + letter of motivation) no later than **June 9th 23:00, 2017** to:

Claudia Rööfli
Swiss Space Center
EPFL, Station 13
CH-1015 Lausanne
claudia.roeoesli@epfl.ch

Candidates will be contacted in June for an interview in June/July.

Testimonies

Here is what Swiss Trainees say about the programme:

Luc at ESTEC, Netherlands (NTP 2015):

"The National Trainee Programme at ESA is a priceless opportunity for young graduates in science or engineering. As a trainee at ESTEC in the Netherlands, I am fully involved in exciting projects with the support of experts in varied domains, and using world-class laboratory equipment. The position offers wide-ranging activities with great flexibility, allowing me to develop new skills according to my wishes. It is also the chance to meet many people from all over Europe, to understand the operation of the agency, and to learn how to do business with ESA."

Andreas at ESRIN, Italy (NTP 2015):

"Thanks to the SSC and the Swiss National Trainee Programme I got the opportunity to work abroad in a city where others spend their holiday. Working for ESA is an unforgettable, very valuable experience where you have the chance to work on unique space-related projects with people of different national, cultural and educational background. In my case I can work in the field of Disaster Risk Management and implement tools and technics to detect landslides in the newly developed Geohazards Exploitation Platform. Through this I also have an insight view of project management processes and how the relationship with the industry works. This internship offers me also the opportunity to get in touch with different national and international organizations, universities and companies and can open new career paths for the time after."

Stefan at ESOC, Germany (NTP 2014):

"The NTP not only gave me the chance to gain insight into one of the major organizations within the space community, it also enabled me to go abroad and apply my analytical and technical skills in an exciting and international environment. I can only recommend the programme to each Swiss engineer or physicist with an interest in space applications and science. On that point, I would like to thank the SSC for providing these invaluable opportunities."