



Universität Heidelberg  
**Zentrum für Astronomie**



## PhD Positions in Extragalactic Astronomy

Applications are invited for up to two PhD positions in observational extragalactic astronomy at the Center for Astronomy of the University of Heidelberg (Zentrum für Astronomie der Universität Heidelberg, ZAH). The ZAH comprises three astronomical institutes ([www.zah.uni-hd.de](http://www.zah.uni-hd.de)), with research interests ranging from star formation and extrasolar planets to galaxy evolution and cosmology. Complemented by collaborations with the nearby Max-Planck Institute for Astronomy (MPIA), Heidelberg offers a rich and inspiring research environment.

The aim of the PhD projects is the observational study of the dwarf galaxy populations in nearby clusters in order to gain an understanding of their formation, interrelation, and internal structure. High-quality datasets of optical spectroscopy and imaging are provided by recent observing campaigns at the ESO Very Large Telescope and other facilities, as well as by the Sloan Digital Sky Survey. Follow-up observations in the course of the projects are envisaged.

The successful applicants will work with Dr. Thorsten Lisker at the ZAH/ARI as members of a new, independent research group ([www.x-astro.net](http://www.x-astro.net)), which has been established in the framework of the new Heidelberg Graduate School of Fundamental Physics ([www.fundamental-physics.uni-hd.de](http://www.fundamental-physics.uni-hd.de)). They will benefit from education and training in the Graduate School, the goal of which is to equip students with the scientific and methodical skills required for successful research.

Applications received by July 01, 2007 will be given full consideration. Possible starting dates range from October 2007 to April 2008. Please send your application by email to [phd@x-astro.net](mailto:phd@x-astro.net) and arrange for at least one letter of reference to be sent separately to the same email address. Applications should include a curriculum vitae, a list of courses attended, the planned date of completion of the Master's (or equivalent) degree, the preferred starting date of the PhD, and a brief statement (200 words maximum) about the motivation for doing a PhD in astronomy.

PLEASE NOTE: Applicants are encouraged to also apply for the PhD scholarships of the Graduate School, for which the application deadline is June 15, 2007.

See [www.fundamental-physics.uni-hd.de/scholarships.php](http://www.fundamental-physics.uni-hd.de/scholarships.php) for the application procedure. Successful candidates could carry out the very same PhD projects with Dr. Lisker as described above.

The University of Heidelberg requires applicants to have, or expect, a degree equivalent to the German Physics Diplom (e.g., a MSc, a Laurea, etc., including a written thesis) in order to be acceptable for doctoral studies. A „very good“ final grade is required, comparable to a grade of 2.0 or better in the Heidelberg grading scheme (equivalent to B+ or better in the US lettergrade system). At equal level of qualification, preference will be given to disabled candidates. Female students are particularly encouraged to apply.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Lisker ([phd@x-astro.net](mailto:phd@x-astro.net)) for further information.