

NORDIC OPTICAL TELESCOPE

**Council meeting
October 5 , 2021**

Policies for observing time allocation and Large Proposals

The fundamental policy in allocating observing time is scientific merit. This applies to any and all applications for observing time, be it as part of regular calls for proposals, external programs, or use of guaranteed time.

Regular Observing Proposals

For regular observing proposals from researchers affiliated with the partners countries and institutes, the proposals are ranked by the Observing Program Committee (OPC) on scientific merit, and observing time is allocated based on the following policies:

- Within scheduled constraints, time is allocated following the ranking
- On a semester basis, the share of observing time allocated to researchers affiliated with a partner country or institute, should roughly follow the share of the annual contribution from that partner country or institute, but are only more strictly followed over the longer run. In particular, specific time allocations are not reduced to fit the precise fractions, while overall allocation shares to proposals from researchers affiliated with the partners countries and institutes can be varied according to circumstances (increased or reduced number of applications in a specific semester, specific applications in a semester, etcetera).

Large Proposals

For Large Proposals (i.e., proposals that request observing time in two or more semesters, over a maximum period of 3 years), the following policies apply:

- The proposal form for Large Proposals include a specific question if an allocation for a single semester is acceptable. If answered affirmative, any time allocation to a Large Proposal follows the same policies as for regular proposals with respect to time allocation in the specific semester in which the Large Proposal is submitted.
- For a Large Proposal to get long-term status (that is, observing time is allocated over more than one semester as requested), the proposal should be highly ranked.
- The total amount of observing time allocated to Large Proposals should be limited to allow for other/new proposals to compete for observing time in subsequent semesters.

The precise way these last two policies are applied, include a lot of considerations, which can not really translated in to specific general rules . E.g., proposals with Principal Investigators (PIs) from different partner country and/or institutes (this can be maximum 3), the size of the requested amount of time relative to the total share for a partner country or institute (which can be different in case of PIs from different partner countries and/or institutes), the total period over which time is requested, what are the specific requests over time from other Large Proposals that already have long-term status (which again can be different in case of PIs from different partner countries and/or institutes), etcetera.

The above two policies are taken as general guide lines, where the main objective is to maintain a reasonable amount of observing time open for other/new proposals in subsequent observing semesters, but the specific (fraction of the) number of nights allocated in each semester for each partner country or institute can vary on a case by case basis. In any particular case where this might be a significant issue, this will be discussed with the representative(s) in the Council of the specific partner countries and/or institutes involved.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Augusteijn', written in a cursive style.

September 21, 2021

Thomas Augusteijn