

# Haus der Astronomie

Zentrum für astronomische Bildungs- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit



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Heidelberg, 28.04.2014

Dear DAAD committee,

We at the House of Astronomy in Heidelberg strongly support the initiative led by Prof. Jaime E. Forero-Romero at the Universidad de los Andes in Colombia to arrange a study trip to Germany during January 2015 for a group of 10 Colombian students.

Cecilia Scorza met Prof. Jaime Forero in November 2012 at an astronomical conference held in Bucaramanga Colombia, where she presented a talk about the "Strategic Plan 2010-2020" of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) related to the topic "astronomy for development". Since then she has been in close contact with Prof. Forero trying to develop strategies to foster the development of professional astronomy in Colombia.

In this letter we confirm that we are going to provide the rooms required for the following lectures (in English) at our Institute and organize a scientific program with Max-Planck-Institute (MPIA) and University members:

- Monday 12.1.2015, Prof. H-W Rix, Director of the MPIA, "galaxies and Cosmology"
- Tuesday 13.1.2015, Dr. Christian Fendt, Coordinator of the international Max-Planck research school, "On the possibilities for graduate studies in Heidelberg".
- Wednesday 14.1.2015, Work with tutors

We will also provide a tour of all the facilities at the Institute and four more Institutes in Heidelberg including: the Max-Planck-Institute for Astronomy, the Observatory of the Heidelberg University, the Astronomisches-Rechen-Institute, the Institut für Theoretische Astrophysik and the Heidelberg Institut für Theoretische Studien (HITS). Furthermore, as soon as the group trip is confirmed, we will prepare several short projects the students will be able to tackle during their visit. These projects will be tutored by graduate students.

This visit will open new perspectives to a new generation of astronomers in a developing country. We know that the selection process aimed at picking the best and most motivated students. We hope that this demonstration to encourage the best young minds will be recognized by the DAAD.

Best regards,

Coordinator of international programs

Managing Scientist  
House of Astronomy