



UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE COLOMBIA  
**SEDE BOGOTÁ**  
FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS  
OBSERVATORIO ASTRONÓMICO NACIONAL

Bogotá, April 29th 2013

Dear Mame / Sir:

**Travel Program Selection Committee**  
**German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)**

On behalf of the *Observatorio Astronómico* at *Universidad Nacional de Colombia* in Bogotá, we would like to manifest our unrestricted support to the initiative **Winter School in Astrophysics 2013** which has been prepared by *Jaime Forero*, professor of the *Universidad de los Andes* at Bogotá with the help of other astronomy researchers in Colombia, who performed the student selection and helped to shape the final version of the proposal.

During **Winter School in Astrophysics 2013** the selected students will visit seven Research Institutes at Germany in order to develop small scientific projects in instrumentation, theory and observation, mainly in the area of extragalactic astrophysics. A total of 15 students coming from seven universities from whole country will attend the school. The most important selection criteria were academic excellence, promise to be great researchers and passion for astronomy. From *Univesidad Nacional de Colombia*, the selected students are: **Andrea Liliana Pacheco** and **Alejandro Cárdenas**. Both of them are at the final stage of the undergraduate program in physics and both have a strong interest to continue their formation in astrophysics.

The **Winter School in Astrophysics 2013** is a very important academic event for the development of astronomy in Colombia due to the high scientific level of the academic duties that will be developed. We believe that this is a brilliant initiative that certainly will open new horizons for the participants concerning their formation and future field of action.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any question related to this supporting letter.

Best Regards,

**José Gregorio Portilla**

Director Observatorio Astronómico / Facultad de Ciencias

**GIOVANNI PINZÓN ESTRADA**

**Giovanni Pinzón Estrada**

Profesor Asistente Observatorio Astronómico / Facultad de Ciencias