

# Haus der Astronomie

Zentrum für astronomische Bildungs- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit



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Heidelberg, 26.04.2013

Dear DAAD committee,

we at the Haus der Astronomie in Heidelberg support strongly the initiative led by Prof. Jaime E. Forero-Romero at Universidad de los Andes in Colombia to arrange a winter school on astrophysics in Germany during the dates 2-11 December 2013 for a group of Colombian students.

I met Prof. Jaime Forero in November 2012 at an astronomical conference held in Bucaramanga Colombia, in which I presented a talk about the "Strategic Plan 2010-2010" of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) related to the topic "astronomy for development". Since then I have 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) of our Institute and organize a scientific program with Max-Planck-Institute (MPIA) and University members:

- Monday 09.12.2013, Prof. H-W Rix, Director of the MPIA, "Galaxies and Cosmology"
- Tuesday 10.12.2013, Dr. Christian Fendt, Coordinator of the international Max-Planck research school, "On the possibilities for graduate studies in Heidelberg".
- Wednesday 11.12.2013, Work with tutors

We will also provide a tour of all the facilities at the Institute and other four 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 das Heidelberg Institut für theoretische Studien (HITS). Furthermore, if the group trip is confirmed, we will prepare several short projects that the students will be able to tackle during their visit. These projects will be tutored by graduate students.

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

Best regards,

Coordinator of international programs

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