

Telescope Access Program-Optical/IR

Call for Proposals

Semester 2015B

(<http://info.bao.ac.cn/tap/>)

Proposal Deadline

30 March 2015

17:00 China Standard Time

CFHT, P200, Lick/APF:

01/08/2015 - 31/01/2016

Steward Observatory Facilities:

01/08/2015 – 31/12/2015



TAP Overview for 2015B

The Telescope Access Program (TAP) is a program to give astronomers based in China direct access to competitive instrumentation on intermediate- and large-aperture optical/infrared telescopes. We estimate that the following amount of time will be available for new programs on four facilities:

Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope (3.6m): 60 hours [August, 2015 - January, 2016]

Palomar Hale Telescope (5.1m, P200): 18 nights [August, 2015 - January, 2016]

Steward Observatory Facilities: 5 MMT night equivalent and up to 2 Magellan nights [August - December, 2015]

UCO/Lick Automated Planet Finder: Up to 5 nights [August, 2015 - January, 2016]



Special Note for 2015B

2015A marked the beginning of new agreements with all the TAP partner observatories. There were a few major changes to the program.

- P200 access was doubled to ~18 nights/semester
- Steward Observatory access is no longer limited to MMT and Magellan. TAP proposers can now also request time on the Bok 2.3m and the Kuiper 1.5m. The maximum number of available Magellan nights is still 2 per semester, and the total amount of time available is the equivalent cost of 5 MMT nights.
- The UCO/Lick Automated Planet Finder is now available for TAP programs. It is a 2.4m telescope on Mt. Hamilton equipped with a high-throughput, high resolution echelle spectrograph. Although designed for planet searches, it is also well-suited to stellar abundance studies. All APF observations will be conducted in queue mode. Please calculate the number of hours needed for your program.
- CFHT availability is now expanded to be 5-15 nights/semester. Nights are calculated for instruments as follows: 1 night = 5.5 hrs MegaCam or 6.0 hrs WIRCam or 7.5 hrs ESPaDOnS, where number of hours is total exposure time.
- The actual number of nights available will depend on the needs of accepted Key Projects. **However, we expect that most of the nights listed above will be available for general programs.**

Proposal Submission

TAP is now accepting observing proposals up until the deadline. The web site (<http://info.bao.ac.cn/tap/>) provides more information and TAP, the available facilities and instrumentation, proposal information (criteria, templates, examples), TAP policies. Note that

- Proposals for CFHT time should be uploaded directly to the CFHT Northstar Proposal
- Proposals for the P200, MMT, or Magellan should use the LaTeX proposal template available for download via the above links. **Please use the latest LaTeX proposal template**, which separates the experimental design and technical justification sections.
- Proposals for the P200 should also include a Palomar Observatory Cover Sheet. It can also be accessed through the COO solicitation information page. The COO solicitation cover page for 2015B will be available sometime in March.
- MMT proposals that use PI instruments should attach an approval email from the instrument PI.
- All student investigators should have their advisor email TAP to state their approval and support for the student's involvement.
- Some observing programs can be accomplished on more than one facility. Given that MMT and Magellan time are likely to be highly oversubscribed, we give the proposers the

option of specifying "alternate runs" that could accomplish their science if the first option is not available. For example, a proposal for the Blue spectrograph on MMT might also be accomplished with more observing time with P200/DoubleSpec if the proposal rank is not high enough for MMT time. Giving the TAC this option will allow more flexibility in allocating time to the best science.

- Adaptive optics at the 200-inch: The PALM-3000 adaptive optics facility (P3K) is now operational, but anyone who would like to use it should contact TAP or Palomar Observatory to check on the current status.
- If scheduling a time constrained proposal (e.g., exoplanet transit), it is good to check with the observatory if the instrument being requested can be scheduled at that time.
- **The TAC will expect to see updates on any previously approved TAP programs. Please include such updates in the proposal, if applicable. Any proposals that do not list the current status of previous allocations to investigators will be penalized.**

The completed proposal PDF file should be emailed directly to telescope.access.program@gmail.com before the deadline. *Please read the full instructions on the TAP website for submission instructions.*

Advice for writing 2015B proposals

The 1st TAP Workshop was held at PKU/KIAA where presentations were given describing the facilities. You can download those presentations, which may be useful for proposal preparation. The 2nd TAP Workshop and 3rd TAP Workshop also have relevant

Please avoid these common mistakes from previous proposals:

- No justification for lunar phase. In particular, any IR programs requesting time other than bright time **must justify very clearly** why.
- No justification for requested image quality/seeing for CFHT queue programs
- No justification for depth and signal-to-noise required for the science. It is **not** sufficient to simply say, "We require 2300s exposure time to reach S/N=10 for g=24 mag" if g=24 and S/N=10 are not also justified.
- No justification for sample size or survey area. Why does the program need 66 galaxies? Why not 50? Why not 20?
- What **specific** science question(s) will be answered by the program?
- No mention of the current status of the field, work done by others, or **why the proposal would be a significant advancement over what has already been done.**
- **Do not exceed the page limits**, or put information in the wrong sections of the proposal in order to circumvent page limits.
- Please include an update on all programs where the investigators have received TAP time.

Any proposal that makes the above mistakes will have a much lower chance of being accepted.

TAP facilities at other wavelengths

Notice that TAP facilities in the solar, radio, sub-millimeter and time-domain are also available. For full information, see <http://info.bao.ac.cn/project-b/>

Acknowledgement

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