

# Telescope Access Program Call for Proposals

## Semester 2018A

Proposal Deadline:

**26 September 2017**

17:00 China Standard Time

**CFHT, P200:** 1 February 2018 to 31 July 2018

**Steward Observatory (see below):** 1 January 2018 to 31 July 2018

**Las Cumbres Observatory:** 1 December 2017 - 31 May 2018

### TAP Overview for 2018A

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:

[Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope](#) (3.6m): 4-7 nights [February, 2018 - July, 2018]

[Palomar Hale Telescope](#) (5.1m, P200): ~22 nights [February, 2018 - July, 2018]

[Steward Observatory Facilities:](#) From *zero* up to 6 MMT nights (or equivalent on smaller telescopes) and *zero* up to 2 Magellan nights [January - July, 2017]

[Las Cumbres Observatory](#) (1m network): 200 hours [December, 2017 - May, 2018]

**Steward facilities in 2018A:** TAP's agreement with Steward observatory has not yet been renewed for 2018A. Award of time on MMT, Magellan, or other Steward telescopes are contingent on this renewal. We are opening these telescopes for proposals in the hope that funding can be identified and an agreement can be signed in the coming months, but we make no guarantee that time will ultimately be available.

**Las Cumbres Observatory (LCO).** We are now accepting proposals for the LCO 1m network of telescopes at the same time as for other telescopes. In the past, LCO had a separate deadline, but their schedule has now changed.

## Other notes for 2018A

- **All proposals, including CFHT, should now be emailed to the TAP email account ([telescope.access.program@gmail.com](mailto:telescope.access.program@gmail.com)).** CFHT proposals should also be submitted through the [Northstar Proposal Tool](#).
- **Near-infrared observations should request bright time.** Any request for dark or gray time for near-infrared observations may cause the proposal to be rejected unless the request is justified explicitly with clear exposure time comparisons.
- **M2FS on Magellan is a PI instrument.** Any proposers who wish to use M2FS must contact Mario Mateo at least ten days before the proposal deadline. Any observations made with M2FS must be part of a collaborative agreement with the seven PIs, who will be given the option to be co-authors on any papers based on data taken with the instrument. M2FS observations are taken in queue mode.
- 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.
- CFHT nights are calculated for instruments as follows: 1 night = 5.5 hrs MegaCam or 6.0 hrs WIRCcam or 7.5 hrs ESPaDOnS, where number of hours is total exposure time.
- The CFHT 2018A Call for Proposals: <http://cfht.hawaii.edu/en/science/Proposals/>

## Proposal Submission

TAP is now accepting observing proposals up until the deadline. The links below provide more information and TAP, the available facilities, proposal information (criteria, templates, examples), and TAP policies.

[The TAP website main page](#)

[Available Instrumentation](#)

[Proposal Information](#)

[TAP Policies](#)

Proposals for CFHT time should be uploaded directly to the [CFHT Northstar Proposal Tool](#), but should also be emailed to the TAP email account [<telescope.access.program@gmail.com>](mailto:telescope.access.program@gmail.com).

Proposals for the P200 and Steward facilities should use the LaTeX proposal template. **Please use the latest proposal template, available here:** ([tgz](#), [zip](#)). The

proposal package contains a blank template, a .cls file, and an example proposal. Note that:

- As of 2015B, there was a **new proposal template** that separates the experimental design and technical justification sections. Please use this new LaTeX template.
- Proposals for the P200 should also include a [Palomar Observatory Cover Sheet](#). It can also be accessed through the [COO solicitation information page](#).
- 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 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](mailto:telescope.access.program@gmail.com) before the deadline. \*Please read the full instructions on the TAP website for submission instructions.\*

### **Advice for writing 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 presentations.

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