

# Operations Scientist

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**Job Location**

Cape Town, South Africa

**Area / Department**

Science

**Contract Type**

Permanent

**Salary**

ZAR 650,000 - 900,000 depending on experience, plus excellent benefits

**Closing Date**

08/03/2024

**Ref No**

10264

At the SKAO we are coordinating a global effort to deliver one of the largest science facilities on the planet. The SKAO telescopes will be next-generation instruments that will help to answer key questions in astrophysics, drive technological innovation and support human capital development.

More than a dozen partner countries and over a thousand scientists and engineers around the world are already on board, making the SKA project an international collaboration like no other, and one of the most ambitious science and engineering endeavours of the 21st century.

Headquartered in the UK, with telescope sites in Australia and South Africa, the SKAO will be one observatory operating two telescopes, an endeavour spanning three continents. Multinational by design, in early 2021 the SKAO became an intergovernmental organisation, one of only a select handful of science infrastructures to do so worldwide.

Construction activities for the SKAO's telescopes in Australia and South Africa started in 2021, along with a ramping up of SKAO staff in both countries. It is expected that the transition from the Construction Phase to the Operations Phase will happen around 2028.

SKAO Operations in South Africa will be conducted in partnership with the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO). SKAO Operations in Australia will be conducted in partnership with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). The Observatory will also partner closely with a global network of SKA Regional

Centres through which astronomers will access science data products and a suite of tools and resources to further analyse the SKA telescopes' data.

For more information on the SKA project visit <https://www.skao.int/>

The SKA Observatory offers a competitive salary and a generous pension and benefits package. As an employee of an intergovernmental organisation, an appointee who is not a national of the country in which the role is based may be subject to personal Privileges and Immunities.

An ideal role for a radio astronomer with Observatory experience who is keen to contribute to the operational planning and commissioning of the SKAO and become involved in the science operations of the SKA precursor, MeerKAT.

## The Role

The SKAO Operations group is seeking to employ up to four talented and motivated Operations Scientists to join the SKA-Mid team based at the Science Operations Centre in Cape Town, South Africa. With the SKA now in construction, planning for the operations of the SKA has entered an exciting phase. In order to support our planning, we are looking for individuals with broad operational and scientific experience within the full range of activities required to run a successful radio observatory. This includes knowledge of the telescope systems, data processing and analysis, as well as experience serving a diverse and distributed user community.

The Operations Scientists will draw on their experience, expertise within their established networks and the broader astronomical community to inform the detailed SKAO operational plan and policies. They will also be required to support the planning and execution of scientific commissioning and verification for the SKA Observatory. Good organisational, communication and collaborative skills are required for this role. In addition, under a joint agreement between the SKAO and SARAo, the SKA-Mid Science Operations team will work jointly with the SARAo MeerKAT operations team to support MeerKAT science operations and commissioning of the MeerKAT extension, until the MeerKAT telescope is integrated into the SKA. This provides an opportunity to gain additional experience in an active observatory environment.

The roles are offered on a full time, permanent basis and the Operations Scientists will periodically need to work outside of normal office hours when fulfilling the Astronomer on Duty support role.

SKAO is committed to providing an inclusive and flexible working environment, meeting the requests of our Colleagues whilst also fulfilling the needs and objectives of the Observatory.

We encourage applications from under-represented groups such as women and individuals with disabilities, as well as open conversations during the recruitment process in relation to any specific requirements.

There may be occasions where this role requires the post holder to work across different time zones and, in line with SKAO policy, flexible working hours will be supported in agreement with the line manager.

## **Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities and Duties**

Under the direction of the SKA-Mid Head of Science Operations, the successful candidate will support the future science operations of the SKA Observatory by:

- Supporting the development and continual refinement of the science operational model for the SKA telescopes.
- Ensuring consistency between the SKA System Level requirements with those needed for the successful future operation of the SKA telescopes.
- Contributing to commissioning and science verification of MeerKAT Extension and SKA-Mid Telescope, including the development of plans, requirements for early array releases and test procedures.
- Supporting the development of software needed to operate the SKA Telescopes or necessary for the SKA user community.
- Effectively collaborating with SKAO staff across the three sites. Occasional travel to the SKAO telescope sites in Australia and/or South Africa will be necessary (typically once a year for up to 2 weeks).
- Supporting MeerKAT science operations by serving as Astronomer on Duty on a roster basis, conducting feasibility reviews and providing user support as needed.
- Optionally undertaking a programme of personal research up to 25% of employed hours.
- Undertaking other duties as directed by the SKA-Mid Head of Science Operations.

## **Mandatory Knowledge, Skills and Experience**

- University PhD degree in Astronomy, Physics, Engineering or another closely related and relevant field, or equivalent experience.
- Expertise in radio astronomy techniques including in the acquisition, reduction and analysis of astronomical data.
- Experience with the operation of astronomical observatories.
- Experience working with a diverse and globally distributed telescope user community and providing appropriate user support.
- Effective oral and written communication skills in English.

- Flexibility and adaptability to change.

## Desirable Knowledge, Skills and Experience

- Experience commissioning radio astronomy instrumentation (or similar).
- Experience working in large collaborative projects.
- Experience understanding and articulating the needs of a user (e.g. radio astronomer) to inform the development of requirements (e.g. through a series of use cases) and/or operational policies.
- Ability to work effectively with engineers and scientists from a variety of cultures and influence people in widely differing parts of a complex organisation.
- Awareness of equitable practices, including accessibility, to facilitate the broadest possible access to the Observatory from the scientific user community.

## Equality Diversity and Inclusion Statement

SKA Observatory recognises that our diversity is a strength. We aim to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone feels they belong, and diverse perspectives and ideas thrive. As such, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion are at the core of SKA Observatory's agenda.

Our aim is to recruit and retain the most talented individuals, regardless of gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, nationality or background.

Women have traditionally been under-represented in the fields of science and engineering; SKA Observatory welcomes and encourages female applicants.

Where applicants with a disability need facilities or adjustments to enable them to participate in the recruitment process, these will be provided.

SKA Observatory welcome all candidates, especially those from member countries.

The "How to Apply" information contained within the SKA Observatory recruitment portal provides more detail regarding our application and selection approach.

# Content Officers

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## Job Location

Cheshire, UK (Head Office)

## Area / Department

Business Support

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**Contract Type**

Permanent

**Salary**

GBP 31,000 - 37,000 depending on experience, with excellent benefits

**Closing Date**

23/02/2024

**Ref No**

10281

At the SKAO we are coordinating a global effort to deliver one of the largest science facilities on the planet. The SKAO telescopes will be next-generation instruments that will help to answer key questions in astrophysics, drive technological innovation and support human capital development.

More than a dozen partner countries and over a thousand scientists and engineers around the world are already on board, making the SKA project an international collaboration like no other, and one of the most ambitious science and engineering endeavours of the 21st century.

Headquartered in the UK, with telescope sites in Australia and South Africa, the SKAO will be one observatory operating two telescopes, an endeavour spanning three continents. Multinational by design, in early 2021 the SKAO became an intergovernmental organisation, one of only a select handful of science infrastructures to do so worldwide.

Our Global HQ is located near the buzzing city of Manchester at the historic Jodrell Bank Observatory, a UNESCO World Heritage site located in the Cheshire countryside. It is home to a rapidly expanding international team of more than a hundred, working in a highly collaborative and inclusive way, in coordination with SKAO teams in Australia and South Africa as part of a global astronomy and engineering community.

Being part of Team SKA means contributing to something extraordinary: a uniquely exciting project to advance human knowledge that will last for decades. In return, we offer a diverse multicultural working environment, 30 days annual leave plus public holidays, a generous pension scheme, visa and support with relocation (if applicable), regular social events, a family-friendly environment and much more. Come and join us!

An exciting opportunity for two skilful storytellers with experience in communications to join an international, multicultural organisation.

**The Role**

Working under the supervision of the Content and Media Lead, the Content Officers will be tasked with producing a broad range of public content for the Observatory highlighting its scientific, engineering and societal relevance to a wide range of audiences. This includes social media campaigns and posts, news articles and media releases, web and print content such as brochures, leaflets and video material, as well as taking part in or facilitating outreach activities where required.

The SKAO is a co-host of the IAU Centre for the Protection of the Dark and Quiet Sky from Satellite Constellation Interference (IAU CPS) and provides communications and outreach support to the Centre to facilitate its work. As such, the Content Officers may also be asked to dedicate some of their time to promote the activities of the Centre.

The Content Officers will be flexible team players who are willing to undertake other tasks as required across the team. There is scope for development and specialisation within the role, either towards social media management, media relations, video production, print production or more.

The roles will be based at the SKAO Global Headquarters at the iconic Jodrell Bank Observatory, Cheshire, UK.

SKAO is committed to providing an inclusive and flexible working environment, meeting the requests of our Colleagues whilst also fulfilling the needs and objectives of the Observatory.

We encourage applications from under-represented groups such as women and individuals with disabilities, as well as open conversations during the recruitment process in relation to any specific requirements.

There may be occasions where these roles require the post holders to work across different time zones and, in line with SKAO policy, flexible working hours will be supported in agreement with the line manager.

## **Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities and Duties**

- Research and fact-checking: Proactively research news and updates from within and across the Observatory and partnership, staying informed of developments and working closely with experts to ensure accurate content creation and communication efforts.
- Develop compelling and informative content for a broad range of platforms and styles, including magazine articles and news, media releases, blog posts, social media posts, infographics, and other material.
- Craft clear and engaging copy for different mediums and audiences, ensuring accuracy, consistency and adherence to the Observatory's style guide.

- Assist in running the Observatory's social media channels, including scheduling content, engaging with followers and monitoring platform metrics.
- Contribute to the production of video material, such as filming interviews, editing videos etc.
- Monitor media outlets and relevant online platforms for coverage of SKAO-related news and developments, compiling media reports for internal analysis.
- Collaborate with colleagues across the Observatory to build good working relationships, source news and material, and produce content, particularly with the Communications colleagues in the two host countries (Australia and South Africa).
- Undertake communications and outreach activities for the IAU CPS in collaboration with partners (IAU, NOIRLab, SKAO) as required, including preparing print, web and social media content, providing media support, producing material, undertaking public outreach and supporting the presence of the CPS at key events.
- Undertake any other reasonable duties as directed by the Line Manager.

### **Mandatory Knowledge, Skills and Experience**

- University degree in journalism, communications, marketing or another related field, or equivalent experience.
- Experience in communications, journalism or a related field (typically at least three years).
- Demonstrated writing and storytelling skills with the ability to translate complex concepts into accessible and engaging content for different audiences.
- Experience using corporate social media channels.
- Experience working in a fast-paced collaborative environment such as a newsroom, start-up, communications team etc.
- Experience using content management systems such as Wordpress, Drupal, Joomla, and others.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English.
- Superior attention to details and commitment to accuracy in all aspects of content creation and fact-checking.
- Ability to work well with people from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures.
- Experience working in a diverse and dynamic team environment, managing multiple projects with tight deadlines.
- Be a flexible team player who is adaptable to change.

### **Desirable Knowledge, Skills and Experience**

- Experience with multimedia production, e.g. video production.
- Experience of, or willingness to develop skills in, events coordination and/or outreach activities.
- Experience and/or interest in communicating science, especially astronomy and space science.

- Experience working in an international multicultural environment.
- Experience using social media management tools, e.g. Hootsuite, Sprout.
- Experience using media monitoring tools e.g. Meltwater.
- Experience using a science news service such as EurekAlert!, AlphaGalileo or other.
- Experience with creative suites e.g Adobe Creative Cloud.
- Experience of working with geographically distributed teams.
- Experience of gathering monitoring metrics for reports.
- Fluency in another language different than English would be an advantage.

### **Equality Diversity and Inclusion Statement**

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Our aim is to recruit and retain the most talented individuals, regardless of gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, nationality or background.

Women have traditionally been under-represented in the fields of science and engineering; SKA Observatory welcomes and encourages female applicants.

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## **Creative Officer**

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### **Job Location**

Cheshire, UK (Head Office)

### **Area / Department**

Business Support

### **Contract Type**

Permanent

### **Salary**

GBP 31,000 - 37,000 depending on experience, with excellent benefits



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**Closing Date**

23/02/2024

**Ref No**

10284

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An exciting opportunity for a proactive individual with experience in visual content creation to join an international, multicultural organisation.

**The Role**

Working under the supervision of the Creative Production Lead, the Creative Officer will be tasked with producing a broad array of visual material that showcases the Observatory's projects and initiatives. This role involves the conception and production of visual and multimedia content for various platforms and channels, including print, video, virtual, promotional material and more. This role offers unique opportunities for growth

and specialisation in areas such as graphic design, video editing, animation or digital marketing.

This role will be based at the SKAO Global Headquarters at the iconic Jodrell Bank Observatory, Cheshire, UK, and occasional international travel may be required to various conferences and events.

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## **Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities and Duties**

- **Support and Production of Creative Initiatives:** Assist in the production of a broad range of quality visual materials that align with the Observatory's brand and standards, including website content, photography, videography, presentations, video animations and print materials such as posters, infographics and brochures.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Collaborate with a diverse range of internal and external stakeholders to support the Observatory's visual communication goals.
- **Creative Process Involvement:** Contribute to the lifecycle of creative projects, from the initial concept to final distribution, utilising creative suites.
- **Brand Consistency:** Help maintain the Observatory's brand across all merchandise, apparel and promotional materials, ensuring consistency with SKAO brand and accessibility guidelines.
- **Web Development Support:** Provide assistance in web development and maintenance tasks to ensure the public website remains current and visually engaging.
- **Digital Repository:** Support the Communications team and Observatory in ensuring proper storing and dissemination of all appropriate and relevant assets, using tools such as digital asset management software.
- **Event Assistance:** Support internal and external events by assisting with high-quality physical and digital assets, along with photography and videography.
- Undertake any other reasonable duties as directed by the Line Manager.

## **Mandatory Knowledge, Skills and Experience**

- University degree in graphic design, multimedia arts, communications or another related field, or equivalent experience.
- Experience in creative production or a related field, with a portfolio showcasing a range of visual projects (typically at least three years).
- Advanced skills in creative software such as Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects, Premiere Pro).
- Knowledge, skills or experience in visual content creation, with an understanding of design principles and brand alignment.
- Experience using content management systems such as Wordpress, Drupal, Joomla, and others.
- Experience working in a dynamic team environment, managing multiple projects with tight deadlines.
- Ability to work effectively within a team, supporting senior staff and contributing to collaborative projects.
- Be a flexible team player who is adaptable to change.

### **Desirable Knowledge, Skills and Experience**

- Experience with animation, 3D modelling, or interactive design.
- Experience with social media advertising or digital marketing campaigns.
- Understanding of current trends in digital media with the ability to apply them creatively within the organisation's brand framework.
- Experience working in an international, multicultural environment.
- Willingness to stay updated on the latest in creative software and multimedia production techniques.
- Fluency in another language different than English would be an advantage.

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