

Sharing the sky

Skills development using a global robotic telescope network for uplifting the East African astronomical research community

(Apply by 28 Mar 2025)

Develop your skills while carrying out observations with the Las Cumbres Observatory (LCO) global robotic telescope network!

Facility access and 4 training workshops over the course of two years

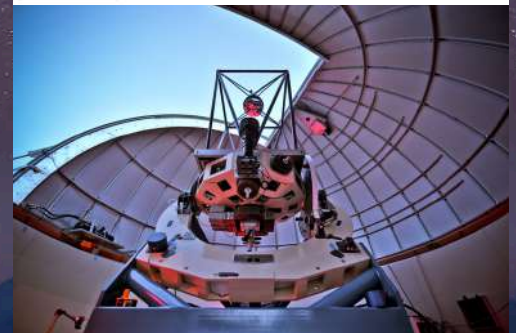
Open to advanced undergraduate students in astronomy/astrophysics or a related discipline, postgraduate students, early-career researchers, as well as senior astronomers, who are based in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, or Rwanda

Travel expenses as well as accommodation and meal costs are fully covered

Our goal is your success. The workshops will cover working with robotic telescopes, observational and statistical techniques, campaign design and management, as well as wider skills like academic writing, presentation skills, and preparing successful competitive research facility proposals and grant applications.

The LCO global telescope network is the world-leading facility for observing astronomical transient events, combining the features of fast response, uninterrupted long-term monitoring, and full-sky coverage. We will be getting astronomy research communities in East Africa ready for the unprecedented flood of alerts on transients of up to 10,000,000 per night from the LSST survey, expected from early 2026. Types of transients that are currently rare will become plentiful, and types of rarer transients that so far have not been found at all are likely to emerge.

First workshop on 27/28 May 2025 (Nairobi/Kenya), and subsequent ones Dec 2025, May/June 2026, and Dec 2026.



Application form

<https://bit.ly/3D4XFAk>

Please send the completed application form to the respective national coordinator:

Kenya: Prof Paul Baki (Technical University of Kenya), paulbaki@tukenya.ac.ke

Uganda: Dr Edward Jurua (Mbarara University of Science and Technology), ejurua@must.ac.ug

Tanzania: Dr Noorali Jiwaji (Open University of Tanzania), ntjiwaji@yahoo.com

Rwanda: Prof Pheneas Nkundabakura (University of Rwanda), p.nkundabakura@ur.ac.rw

For general questions, contact Dr Martin Dominik (University of St Andrews), md35@st-andrews.ac.uk

