2021B LDT Call for Proposals

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--- Released 2021 April 08 ---

Dear Lowell SciStaff & LDT Partner Members and Representatives:

Below is the 2021B LDT Call for Proposals.

A copy of this CfP may also be found on Confluence at:

https://jumar.lowell.edu/confluence/display/LDTOI/2021B+LDT+Call+for+Proposals

This email is being sent out on the DCT-TAC-announcements@lowell.edu mailing list.

LDT Partner Reps: Please be sure to forward this to any new users who might not already be signed up for this mailing list. Email tac@lowell.edu with names & emails of anyone who needs to be added to the DCT-TAC-announcements@lowell.edu email list.

2021B LDT Call for Proposals

Please read the following entirely for important changes from earlier quarters.

COVID-19 Note: How 2021B will play out is not clear at the moment, though things are looking up. The proposal call is currently running on a normal schedule, and presumes a mostly normal semester. All observing will continue to be done remotely until further notice, though we expect that it will be possible to restart on-site observing sometime during the semester. Please indicate if you prefer to observe on-site or remotely so that when we do go back to both modes, we will know your preference.

Notable items:

This call covers the night starting 01 July running through 31 December 2021 MST.

1. If you know of someone at your institution who did not receive this and should have, please contact tac@lowell.edu with the appropriate information to get them added to the distribution list.
2. The proposal form has NOT changed. We are still using version 1.5.3. Please UPDATE to this if you are still not using it (this applies to both the .tex and .cls files).
3. DeVeny, LMI, NIHTS will be generally available for science observations, and for remote observations by experienced users.
4. EXPRES will be available for general use. Anyone interested in using it must contact the EXPRES PI, Debra Fischer, to discuss and coordinate. Non-Yale users will be charged the agreed upon premium for use.
5. For DeVeny users, when indicating the desired grating, please include (a) the Ruling (g/mm), (b) the Blaze angle and (c) the grating ID (DV1 through DV9) from the list on the instruments page.
6. Speckle: DSSI/QWSSI will be available this semester. As previously, it will likely be scheduled in one or two blocks. Please consult with Gerard van Belle.
7. RIMAS is not expected to be available for science use this semester.
8. Please indicate on your proposal cover page if you need twilight time for calibrations.
9. If you are proposing for ToO time, please review the ToO policy and guidelines.
10. The DeVeny user manual has recently been updated, and work is underway on the NIHTS user manual. Please consult those for the most recent details.

This Call for Proposals applies only to LDT.

Lowell requests for Anderson Mesa telescopes should be sent directly to Larry Wasserman (lhw@lowell.edu).

Proposals for LDT time from Lowell users for LDT time are due by Noon MST on Monday, 3-May-2021 and should be submitted by emailing a PDF to <tac@lowell.edu>. Questions should be sent to <tac@lowell.edu>.

Partner Reps: Partner institution requests for LDT time are due by 5pm MST on Thursday, 6-May-2021 and should be submitted by emailing the PDF proposal cover sheets to <tac@lowell.edu>. Please also include a rank ordered listing to facilitate scheduling. Questions should be sent to <tac@lowell.edu>.

The central repository of information for proposers and observers has changed and is at:

https://jumar.lowell.edu/confluence/display/LDTOI/LDT+Observer+Information

The schedule is expected to be posted by Tuesday 01-June-2021.

Science time

LDT calendars for future semesters, showing which half-nights are dark/gray/bright etc are at:
http://lowell-dct.github.io

In general LDT time is quantized in quarter, half and whole nights, with half nights being the preferred unit; we try not to break whole night allocations into separated half or quarter nights except if necessary for scheduling. If you require whole nights, please justify that in your observing request. If you are asking for less than half-nights, please explain and justify in your observing request. Normal night fractions are quarter, half, three quarters and whole.

Assuming 39 engineering nights (which includes up to 2.5 weeks for summer shutdown) throughout the semester, we anticipate about 145 nights will be available for science in this semester. The nominal allocation ranges for each partner are:

- BU: 19 to 29 nights
- UMd: 12 to 13.5 nights
- NAU: 10 to 11 nights
- Toledo: 8 to 10.5 nights
- Yale: 25 to 30 nights [1]
- Lowell: 71 to 51 nights

- [1] Yale is welcome to request time with instruments other than EXPRES, but it is understood that the primary purpose of the Yale time is to use EXPRES.

While partners may request more time than their above nominal allocation range, there is no guarantee that the overage can be scheduled. Partner requests should provide clear priority rankings of their projects to guide schedule conflict resolution.

Target of Opportunity (ToO) proposals will be accepted this semester. Please review the ToO policy if you plan to submit for ToO time.

Time Critical Observation (TCO) status can be requested on the proposal form. TCO status is intended for situations where an event is rare (occultation, exoplanet transit, etc), there's been significant effort to coordinate observations across facilities, or other similar rationale. ToO's may be requested during TCO designated time, but the TCO observer has the right to refuse the ToO. TCO requests are evaluated and granted by the Director or their designate.

ToO requests for time during engineering time are similarly at the discretion of the engineering time lead in case there are urgent facility issues requiring attention. If there is no pressing engineering need, it is likely a ToO would be accepted.

How to propose for LDT time

Proposers at all institutions should use the Lowell LDT Proposal Form to communicate the details of their time requests (see below). Each individual partner has their own internal method of selecting and prioritizing which proposals are forwarded for scheduling. If you are a non-Lowell proposer, please contact your local LDT partner representative for internal deadlines and procedures at your institution. All partner requests must include at minimum the cover page information of the LDT Proposal Form; requirements for the Science Justification section vary among the partners.

Proposal/Observing Request Form

The latest version of the LaTeX template and style file are available for download at:
https://github.com/Lowell-DCT/proposal-template/archive/master.zip

If LaTeX is correctly configured on your system you should be able to generate the example template PDF with:

```
unzip proposal-template-master.zip
cd proposal-template-master
make
```

The latest version number is v1.5.3 and was released on 2018 Jan 06, and posted up ahead of this CfP. This is the same version as was used for 2020A.

If for some reason you are NOT using the latest version, please, please update.

Please ensure you are using this latest version. Old versions do not properly carry through some of the required metadata. This applies to both full proposals and to cover page only submissions. The latest version will have a tag line on the bottoms of the first page that says: "Lowell Observatory DCT proposal L A T E X macros v1.5.3 (Released 2018-01-06)"

I hope that we will be able to use this version for an extended period.

Please email any questions/comments regarding the template to <tac@lowell.edu>.

Lowell Observatory Users

All scientific staff of Lowell Observatory are eligible to apply for LDT time. Incoming science staff are eligible to apply for time after their start date, even if the proposal deadline is before their start date. Departing staff members are eligible to apply if the proposal deadline is before their departure date.

Lowell proposers for LDT time should submit proposals in PDF format for LDT to the TAC at <tac@lowell.edu> using the above LaTeX template and style file. Out of date forms will be returned with a request to update. The template and style file have changed based on feedback from proposers and TAC members, so please read the instructions carefully. As long as proposers respect the page limits, proposals may use the cover page(s) generated from the LaTeX template and PDF pages generated from elsewhere (e.g. Microsoft Word) to combine into a single PDF. Note that TAC members may not be experts in your sub-field and you should write for a non-specialist audience. Please do NOT reduce the font size.

LDT partners

Observers at LDT Partners should route their proposals through their local TAC process, which may have additional requirements from the above LaTeX proposal form. Observing requests should be submitted using the latest LaTeX proposal form and style file (see above); partner requests, at minimum, need to fill out the Cover Sheet and Observing Request Details sections. Not all partners require a Science Justification section.

Partner representatives: Please submit your partner time requests to tac@lowell.edu before the deadline. Please make sure you give a clear prioritization to the set of projects you are submitting to help guide the resolution of scheduling conflicts. Please send any questions to <tac@lowell.edu>.

Remote Observing

[COVID-19 Note: Until further notice, all observations will be done remotely. New users should coordinate with either the LDT staff or other users at their home institution to ensure that they are prepared for their observing time.**]**

[For non-COVID times:] If you want to observe remotely, you should indicate in your application that you are requesting remote observing support and we will do our best to accommodate as many of those requests as possible. Depending on the number of requests and the staffing levels required, we may not be able to satisfy every remote request. Requests are shown on the LDT schedule as either "Remote Requested" (if the request has not yet been approved) or "Remote" (if the request has been approved and staff are available). Requests for remote observing support made after the schedule has been drafted are more difficult to accommodate and face a greater risk that we will not have the necessary staff to support the request. We support remote observing with (a) the LMI, (b) the DeVeny spectrograph, (c) the NIHTS spectrograph, and (d) the EXPRES spectrograph (if you have talked with D. Fischer first). In those cases, users should be sure to specify their choices of filters and/or gratings ahead of time, since filter and grating replacements remain a day-time only operation to minimize risk. To offset the extra costs involved in supporting remote observing, a 5% premium will be charged for remote observations, e.g. a whole night of observing will be charged as 1.05 nights. There will be a minimum remote observing charge of 0.01 nights, e.g. a 0.1night remote observing session will be charged as 0.11 nights.

Instruments Available

To reduce the length of this already overly long document, most of the instrument information has been removed. This CfP will include notes about changes to the instruments, and a pointer to where the more extended instrument information can be found.

For a brief overview of LDT's current instrumentation and the near-term future instrumentation plans, see the "LDT Instrumentation" page on Confluence (https://jumar.lowell.edu/confluence/display/LDTOI/LDT+Instrumentation).

For this semester we are planning:

- LMI: Available, including for remote.
- DeVeny: Available, including for remote.
- NIHTS: Available, including for remote.
- DSSI/QWSSI/Speckle: Available - depending upon demand, and instrument and PI availability. Likely time for speckle will be before RIMAS arrives.
- RIMAS: *Not available; expected to begin commissioning during this semester.*
- EXPRES: Available, including remote (contact the EXPRES PI, Debra Fischer).

LMI: Available - no changes, see the LMI Instrumentation Page (https://jumar.lowell.edu/confluence/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=59114109)

Questions about LMI should be directed to Phil Massey (massey@lowell.edu).

DeVeny: Available - 9 gratings available, see the DeVeny Instrumentation Page (https://jumar.lowell.edu/confluence/display/LDTOI/DeVeny+Optical+Spectrograph)

Questions about the DeVeny should be directed to Tom Bida (tbida@lowell.edu).

NIHTS: Available - see the NIHTS Instrumentation Page (https://jumar.lowell.edu/confluence/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=59114403)

Questions about NIHTS should be directed to Nick Moskovitz (nmosko@lowell.edu).

DSSI/QWSSI/Speckle: Available - contact E. Horch or G. van Belle, see the QWSSI Instrumentation Page (https://jumar.lowell.edu/confluence/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=59114413)

Questions about QWSSI should be directed to Gerard van Belle (gerard@lowell.edu)

Questions about DSSI should be directed to Elliott Horch (horche2@southernct.edu).

RIMAS: *Not available* - delivery expected in 2021B - see the RIMAS Instrumentation Page (https://jumar.lowell.edu/confluence/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=59114415)

EXPRES: Available - contact D. Fischer, see the EXPRES Instrumentation Page (https://jumar.lowell.edu/confluence/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=59114409)

Questions about EXPRES should be directed to Debra Fischer (debra.fischer@yale.edu).