

- **Date sent:** 29 April 2020, 13:34
- **To:** Division D High Energy Phenomena and Fundamental Physics
- **Subject:** OAD announcement of 2 opportunities (note 2 deadlines: 15 and 31st of May)

Dear Div D Members

I am forwarding an email from Vanessa McBride of the OAD team that contains some important updates and 2 calls for proposals with rapidly approaching deadlines.

Best regards, Elena

Dear Elena, Isabelle, Anna and Anna,

I hope you are well in these unusual and difficult circumstances. I would like to provide an update of the OAD activities of the last quarter, which you may like to include in a newsletter, or forward directly to Division members. Please note the advertisement of two opportunities below, with deadlines 15th and 31st May.

- At the beginning of 2020 the Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD) welcomed Dr Nikhita Madhanpall as the [DARA Big Data fellow](#). As part of this fellowship Nikhita is working on the [OAD Flagship 3: Knowledge and Skills for Development](#). She will be developing content for, and running hackathons to support the DARA Big Data projects and other related initiatives.
- The OAD Development Economics fellow, Dr Tawanda Chingozha, has developed a new short course on 'Introduction to Development Economics for non-social scientists'. The course will help one understand better the factors at play in development economics, and enable one to plan interventions appropriately. It's available through the OAD website at this URL: <http://www.astro4dev.org/introduction-to-development-economics-short-course/>
- The annual call for Astronomy for Development projects is now open, and available at www.astro4dev.org/cfp. The call is a 2 stage process again, with the first stage closing on **31 May 2020**.

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the OAD has looked at ways in which the astronomy community can play a role in addressing this global crisis or at least help to mitigate some of its effects. Here is a summary of some actions:

- In March, the OAD teamed up with the other IAU offices to launch a call to action for the Astro community <https://bit.ly/CovidCallAction>
- In April an OAD Fellow, Dr Marie Korsaga, was appointed to look specifically at COVID-19 initiatives around the world in order to assess how the global astronomy community may currently be contributing to the alleviation of the crisis; and importantly to try to explore and understand new ways in which the astronomy community can potentially contribute, in partnership with relevant experts.
- Dr Tawanda Chingozha is helping us keep in touch with the news and discussions from the worlds of economics and development. He has [written up the key points](#) discussed at a recent UNDESA online briefing on the economic and social impacts of

COVID-19 and why it is important for the astro4dev community to rethink its approaches for the new future.

- Alongside the annual call for proposals, the OAD has launched an *extraordinary call for proposals* with a view to respond to the challenges of the pandemic by using its experience to rapidly identify and select innovative, timely, high impact projects or partnerships through a fast-tracked call process. The call is open until 15 May 2020, and can be found at this URL: <http://www.astro4dev.org/call-for-covid-19-related-proposals/>

All our best wishes,

Vanessa McBride,
on behalf of the OAD team,

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