

The [International Space Science Institute](#) (ISSI) is an Institute of advanced studies in the space sciences (Astrophysics, Heliophysics, Planetary Sciences and Earth Science), located in Bern, Switzerland.

ISSI invites applications for a full-time position of

## Director

starting on January 1, 2026. The appointee will be a member of the Directorate of ISSI.

The internationally recognised scientific stature of the Directors ensures the visibility and the scientific excellence of the activities carried out at the Institute in their field of expertise. The current Directorate is composed of the Executive Director and three Directors who bring expertise in the scientific areas that ISSI covers, as described above. The Directors inspire and manage ISSI's activities in their scientific field: breakthrough workshops, workshops, fora, international teams, working groups, and the Institute's visiting scientist programme.

The new Director will bring an established international reputation in either Astrophysics, Heliophysics, Planetary Sciences, or Earth Science, and their scientific expertise will complement the current composition of the Directorate. They will be responsible for the formal and informal interactions with the large community of scientists (approximately 1000) visiting ISSI every year. A good knowledge of ISSI and of the Swiss academic environment as well as of ESA and the worldwide space science community will be an asset.

The appointment will be made through the [University of Bern](#) at the associate professor level for a period of four years (renewable), with corresponding research opportunities and teaching duties. Candidates from countries where habilitation is standard practice are expected to have completed the process. All other candidates are expected to have a substantial research record and teaching experience.

We explicitly encourage applications from female scientists, as the [University of Bern](#) is committed to increasing the proportion of women in senior academic roles. Note also that the University of Bern signed the [DORA declaration](#) and applies its principles to the recruiting process. Applications should contain

- a motivation letter (<3 pages)
- a brief Curriculum Vitae (<5 pages)
- a list of publications.

For inquiries about the position, interested scientists may contact the chair of the Search Committee: Prof. Willy Benz, Univ. of Bern Professor Emeritus, and President of ISSI's Board of Trustees ([willy.benz@unibe.ch](mailto:willy.benz@unibe.ch)).

Applications, in a single .pdf file, should be uploaded through the online submission form at <https://www.issibern.ch/who-we-are/staff/job-opportunities/> no later than July 31, 2025.

*ISSI is an equal opportunity employer. We are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.*