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(UK)

# My Experience with the MCSA IIF Grant

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- **Grant:** Marie Curie Actions: International Incoming Fellowship
- **Period:** Oct. 2008 - Apr. 2010 (18 months)
- **Project:** OBSI-FSU—Joining worlds apart: Observations and Simulations of the First Stars in the Universe
- **Host researcher:** Dr. Raphael Hirschi (photo)
- (Former host: Dr. Falk Herwig)



Q1: How did I obtain the grant?

Q2: How did I interact with the host researchers?

Q3: What did I do in Europe?

Q4: How did the IIF influence my career?

# Q1: How did I obtain the grant?

A: By spending sufficient time to prepare documents with the help of host researchers and staff.

Q1-a: How did I know about the grant?

A: A European researcher told me about it when I was attending a workshop in Germany in 2005.

Q1-b: Why did he tell me about the grant?

A: I guess I made a good presentation at the workshop. He encouraged me to join his group in Keele University (UK).

Q1-c: How difficult was the grant application process?

A: Very difficult. The host researcher(s) and Keele staff helped me a lot. I would not have been successful without their help.

**Q2:** How did I interact with the host researchers?

**A:** By regular meetings and conversations with the host researcher and other staff and graduate students.

**Q2-a:** What happened on the change of the host researcher?

**A:** We shared the same research interest and had no problems in continuing the proposed research.

**Q2-b:** How did I interact with the former host researcher?

**A:** We had some Skype meetings, but I concentrated on the collaborations with the Keele people.

# Q3: What did I do in Europe?

A: I gave 6 research presentations and 6 seminar talks during the contract. We published 11 papers during and after the project.

## Conferences

- Hatfield (domestic)
- Brno (Czech Rep.)
- Rio de Janeiro
- Kobe
- Osaka
- Tokyo

## Seminars

- Keele (domestic)
- Trieste
- Basel
- Hertfordshire (domestic)
- Barcelona
- Cambridge (domestic)

## Papers

3 papers as a leading author, submitted to refereed journals, one of which was coauthored with the host researcher.

**Q4:** How did the IIF influence my career?

**A:** It has enhanced the opportunities for international collaborations and distinguished work, which has enabled me to obtain good research positions.

**Q4-a:** What is an example of international collaborations that are possibly related to the IIF?

**A:** Collaborative studies, using the database that I have developed, which was installed in Keele as well as in Japan.

**Q4-b:** What is an example of distinguished work that is possibly related to the IIF?

**A:** I had a chance to be a reviewer of a European research grant and to be an external examiner of a master's degree in a university in Malaysia. The number of requests to be a referee of journal papers has dramatically increased after the contract with the IIF.

**Q:** What is the most critical task to be successful in the MCSA IIF grant?

**A:** To find the right collaborators and partners with complementary expertise!

This will help to:

- tailor a project to the grant scheme.
- find the strategic aims of the grant.
- find out who can help with the proposal