

# SOFIA

## Student Programmes



Knowledge for Tomorrow

## SOFIA Data can be tough to get...

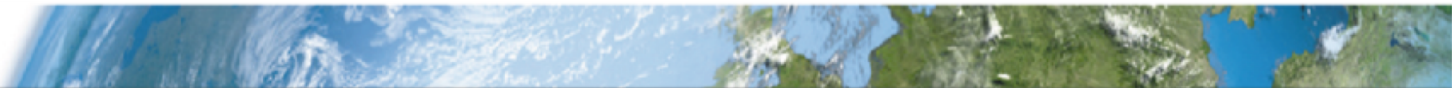
...that's why **we** want to **support** Astronomy students who usually have:

- little or no SOFIA experience
- little or no Infrared Background

In return **we want** students to:

- publish their SOFIA thesis/paper
- present it at scientific conferences
- share their knowledge with others

We especially encourage students from Institutes which were not working a lot with SOFIA in the past. The provided mentorship from senior SOFIA users is indenting to compensate for the lack of SOFIA Experience at your institute.



## Efforts & Benefits

### Efforts:

Additional Application Documents:

- Summary of Proposal/Thesis content (Need of SOFIA data)
- Time schedule (What if you get your data later as expected?)
- Endorsement letter from your Professor or Institutes Thesis Advisor
- Do public outreach and share your experience at (local) newspapers / public talks / Radio or TV / etc...
- Publish your scientific Data

### Benefits:

- Flight Opportunity on SOFIA
- Scientific mentorship from experienced SOFIA users
- Unique (complementing) infrared data for your thesis
- Financial support for travel to California in order to participate flight



## 1.) PhD-Student-Thesis Proposal Program (PPP)

Part of the regular Call for Proposal (CfP) process:

1. Register online at the SOFIA Data Cycle System
2. Download the USPOT software tool which is required to upload the proposal
  - There is an USPOT User Guide available to download
3. Download “SOFIA\_Cycle7\_Student-Proposal” (Word or LaTeX-Template). And follow the instructions given in 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 of the CfP.
4. Submit your proposal through the USPOT Software before the deadline closes!

All Proposals will be ranked according to the following main evaluation criteria:

- scientific feasibility and relevance of SOFIA's unique capabilities
- quality of the proposal
- potential of educational/scientific return





## 1.) PhD-Student-Thesis Proposal Program (PPP)

Additionally, Students who want to apply for the PPP must conform to the following requirements:

- The applicant began the PhD max. 1 year before the application deadline.
- The PhD period will last for another 2 years (or longer) after the application deadline.
- The applicant does not own SOFIA data already. And has not been awarded observation time for Cycle6.
- Less than 5 hours of requested observing time.

In case a student proposal is rejected for the PPP, it will still be considered in the regular category by the Time Allocation Committee (TAC).

In case you got accepted for the PPP, you will be contacted before the TAC meeting. Mentorship will then be offered in order to further improve your proposal before it will be ranked at the TAC meeting.

The date of the observation flight(s) highly depend on all German and US accepted proposals for Cycle7 and how they match best into the mutual Flight Plan for Cycle7.



## 2.) Master & Bachelor Thesis Archive Program (TAP)

Using available SOFIA Data from the Archive rather than applying for new observation time.  
This Program especially aims towards Master and Bachelor students for whom it would be otherwise impossible to work with SOFIA given the short thesis period.

### How to apply for the TAP?

Provide evidence that you are/were working with SOFIA Archive data.

- submitted thesis
- confirmation from your Thesis Advisor that you are currently working on your SOFIA Thesis.



## PPP & TAP

Additional Documents to be submitted to [SOFIA@dlr.de](mailto:SOFIA@dlr.de) for the Student Programms:

- #1\_AFRC-70176\_Haftungsausschluss\_blank.pdf
- #2 Letter of Endorsement from the supervisor (on the Institute's letterhead)
- #3\_T&C-SOFIA-Studentenmitflug.docx
- #4b\_PPP\_SOFIA-StudentApplication\_v.3.0.docx
- #5\_AFRC 10859 Flight Medical Clearance 1.6.pdf (*the medical form must be sent directly to the contact provided in the document*)
- Thesis Schedule

All applications will be evaluated by a committee composed of DLR members, DSI members and external IR astronomers. The outcome of all PPP and TAP applications will be communicated together and thus not before the TAC meeting.



## Additional Information

- German Nationals studying abroad or in Germany
- Foreign Nationals studying in Germany
- Student teams can list several Co-PIs (Professor, Thesis Advisor, Student Team members,...)
- Advisors and professors are welcome to support students. But the initiative and idea has to be coming from the students!





# SOFIA Cookbook

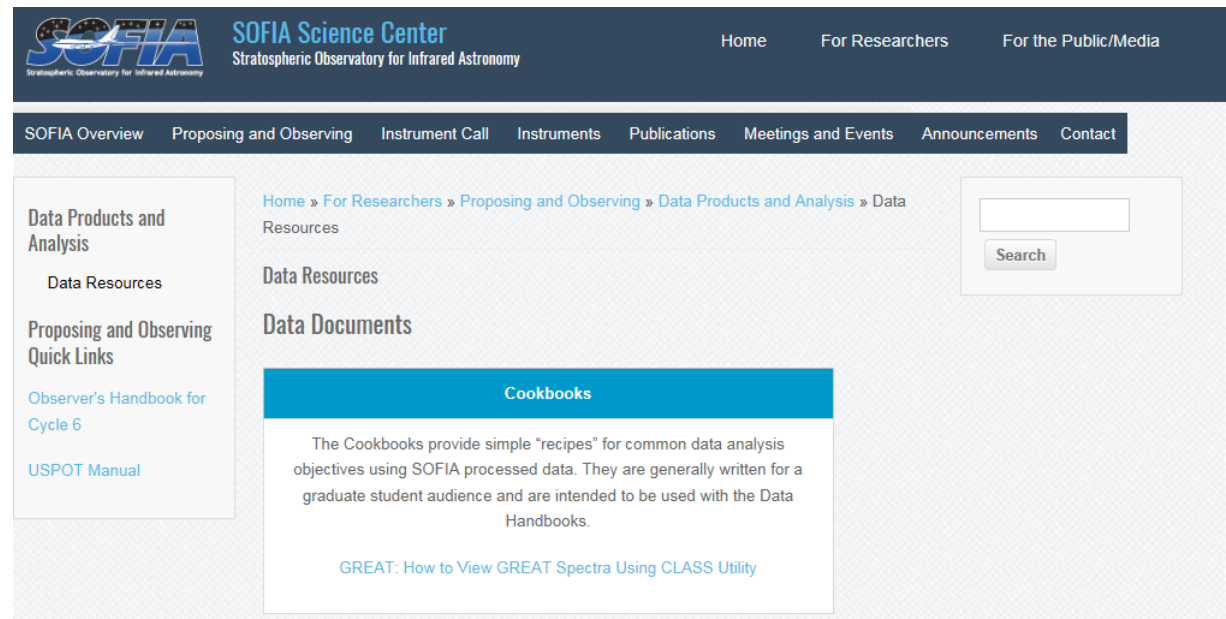
Learn more about SOFIA Data Analysis  
Tailored for graduate students.

Go to:

[www.sofia.usra.edu](http://www.sofia.usra.edu)

And Sign up for the SOFIA newsletter:

[sofiacommunications@lists.arc.nasa.gov](mailto:sofiacommunications@lists.arc.nasa.gov)



The screenshot shows the SOFIA Science Center website. The header includes the SOFIA logo and the text "SOFIA Science Center Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy". Navigation links include "Home", "For Researchers", and "For the Public/Media". A secondary navigation bar lists "SOFIA Overview", "Proposing and Observing", "Instrument Call", "Instruments", "Publications", "Meetings and Events", "Announcements", and "Contact". The main content area is titled "Data Products and Analysis" and includes a sidebar with "Data Resources", "Proposing and Observing Quick Links", "Observer's Handbook for Cycle 6", and "USPOT Manual". The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: "Home » For Researchers » Proposing and Observing » Data Products and Analysis » Data Resources". Below this, there are sections for "Data Resources" and "Data Documents". A prominent blue box titled "Cookbooks" contains the text: "The Cookbooks provide simple 'recipes' for common data analysis objectives using SOFIA processed data. They are generally written for a graduate student audience and are intended to be used with the Data Handbooks." Below this text is a link: "GREAT: How to View GREAT Spectra Using CLASS Utility". A search bar is located in the top right corner.



