



# Astronomische Gesellschaft

## Astronomische Gesellschaft

The Astronomische Gesellschaft (AG) was founded in 1863 as an international society dedicated to the advancement of science by supporting projects which require systematic cooperation of many people.

At that time, one important task was, e.g., the publication of the Catalogue of the AG featuring the position of all stars on the northern sky up to the 9th magnitude.

Today, the AG is a modern astronomical society and its activities are characterised and driven by, e.g., current scientific topics, the networking between astronomers, the support of talented young people, and the increasing importance of public outreach.

## Primary Activities are

- representation of members interests
- the organization of scientific meetings
- the publication of scientific literature
- the representation of German astronomers in the European Astronomical Society (as associated society)
- the promotion of young astronomers
- the awarding of prizes
- the promotion of astronomical education at schools
- public outreach.

## Publications

Currently the AG regularly publishes the following journals:

The Mitteilungen der AG including annual reports of institutions working in the field of astronomy in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria, as well as obituaries, reports of the Executive Committee, e.g., on meetings, minutes of the regular meetings of the General Assembly, reports on the development of the society by the councillors

The Reviews in Modern Astronomy featuring the key note and highlight talks given at the Society's meetings

Each year a special issue of the Astronomical Notes (Astronomische Nachrichten) is published.

## Travel grants for young astronomers

The Society supports young astronomers by travel grants that allow them to visit other institutions or to attend conferences.

## Awards

The AG awards several prizes to honour persons with outstanding achievements in astronomical research:

The Karl Schwarzschild Medal to recognize outstanding scientific contributions. The awarding is accompanied by the Karl Schwarzschild Lecture held at the scientific annual meeting and their publication by the AG

The honorary membership to individuals for their exceptional services to the Society.

The Ludwig Biermann Award for outstanding young astronomers.

The PhD-Award for the best PhD of the past year.

The Bruno H. Bürgel Prize for excellent popular representations of astronomical research results.

The Hans-Ludwig Neumann Prize in recognition of the advancement of astronomy at schools

The Jugend forscht (Youth's Research) Award. The best astronomical contribution of the geo/space science section in the national competition is invited to participate in the next scientific meeting of the AG.

## Working groups

### History of Astronomy

This group is open to all members of the AG. Its aims are the organisation of scientific meetings, the provision of information on astronomical history by editing publications and the undertaking of joint projects.

([www.astro.uni-bonn.de/~pbrosche/astoria-d.html](http://www.astro.uni-bonn.de/~pbrosche/astoria-d.html))

### School Commission

Its goal is to foster astronomy in primary and secondary education and to generally increase the acceptance of natural sciences at schools. In the long run the group intends to create a network for teachers and to influence the curricula.

([star-www.st-and.ac.uk/~ch80/ALU/index.html](http://star-www.st-and.ac.uk/~ch80/ALU/index.html))

## Job Market

The AG compiles a free job register with vacant positions and applications for positions in astronomy and astrophysics.

([www.astronomische-gesellschaft.de/jobregister\\_eng.html](http://www.astronomische-gesellschaft.de/jobregister_eng.html))

## Contact information

[www.astronomische-gesellschaft.de](http://www.astronomische-gesellschaft.de)

Press Officer:

Dr. Klaus Jäger, MPI for Astronomy, Heidelberg

Tel.: +49 6221 528 379

[pressereferent@astronomische-gesellschaft.de](mailto:pressereferent@astronomische-gesellschaft.de)