

## Eduardo Bendek Selman



Eduardo Bendek Selman was born in Santiago, Chile. As a child, he developed a keen interest in physics and engineering which led him to undertake undergraduate studies in mechanical engineering at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. During this academically enriching time, he also pursued a minor in astronomy and was an exchange student at the University of California, Berkeley.

Eduardo continued his education with a master's program in mechanical engineering and was awarded an ECOS CONYCIT scholarship for his thesis research project at the Université

de Technologie in Troyes, France.

Just after the completion of his thesis, Eduardo joined the European Southern Observatory as an instrumentation engineer at the Paranal Observatory, one of the most advanced optical telescopes facilities in the world. He spent five years working on the commissioning, integration and maintenance of infrared astronomical instruments and adaptive optics systems.

Seeking to become more specialized in the astronomical instrumentation field, Eduardo applied for an International Fulbright Science and Technology Award. In fall 2008, he joined the College of Optical Sciences at the University of Arizona to research adaptive optics and laser guide stars for astronomical instrumentation applications. His long term goal is to contribute to the Chilean government's efforts to be increasingly involved in some of the world's major astronomical projects scheduled to take place within the next decade.