

DELVE Policy Guidelines

Version 2.3

Updated Sep 20, 2025

Membership and Onboarding	1
Relationship Between DELVE, DES, and SMASH	2
Working Groups	2
Management Committee	2
Publication Process	2
Authorship on Papers	3
Builders	3
Talks Involving DELVE Data	4
Acknowledgments	4

Membership and Onboarding

The DECam Local Volume Exploration (DELVE) Survey is an NOIRLab community survey started in 2019A. The DELVE Collaboration consists of members of DES, SMASH and other community astronomers. Any member of DES and/or SMASH is welcome to participate in DELVE projects and to write papers using DELVE data. One does not have to be listed as a co-investigator on the initial DELVE proposal in order to get involved. DELVE members are expected to abide by the [DELVE Code of Conduct](#).

In 2023, DELVE expanded to include the DECam MAGIC Survey (P.I. Chiti, PropID: 2023B-646244) as an independent working group within its organizational structure. All policies listed in this document apply to those interested in joining the MAGIC Survey, participating in the MAGIC Survey, or using MAGIC data.

DELVE welcomes new members. New members may join DELVE either as junior participants (undergraduate students, graduate students, or postdocs) working with more senior DELVE members, or through the approval of the DELVE Management Committee. The process for senior members joining DELVE is as follows:

- Candidate members are asked to submit an application consisting of a biosketch and brief statement of interest for consideration by the DELVE Management Committee.

- The Management Committee reviews the application and provides feedback to the applicant.
- The candidate incorporates feedback into an application that the Management Committee forwards to the entire collaboration and requests feedback.
- Any concerns will be raised to the Management Committee, who will make a final judgment on new membership applications.

Relationship Between DELVE, DES, and SMASH

There are two broad categories of DELVE projects for which different sets of policy guidelines apply:

1. Projects that use only DELVE data (no proprietary DES or SMASH data) must follow the policies listed in this document.
2. Projects that combine DELVE data with proprietary DES and/or SMASH data must follow the policies outlined in the approved [DES-SMASH MoU](#) in addition to the policies described here.
3. Projects that use data from the DECam MAGIC Survey must follow the policies listed in this document. Additionally, any publications that use data from MAGIC must acknowledge that data from both the MAGIC Survey and DELVE Collaboration are used.

Working Groups

The DELVE collaboration consists of several working groups. The initial scientific working groups will be associated with the wide-area survey (WIDE), Magellanic Clouds survey (MC), and the deep fields (DEEP). The DECam MAGIC Survey will have a working group (MAGIC) coordinated by the MAGIC PI without required rotation. Additional scientific and/or infrastructure working groups may be proposed and approved by the Management Committee. Each working group will be responsible for keeping a list of approved projects. Unless otherwise specified, working group coordinator terms will be no longer than two years with possibility for renewal.

Management Committee

The goal of the DELVE Management Committee is to provide scientific direction, set collaboration policy, and arbitrate disputes that may arise within the collaboration. The Management Committee will consist of at least five DELVE members including the DELVE PI, the working group coordinators, and an early-career representative. Positions in the DELVE Management Committee will be ex-officio, with the exception of the early-career representative. The early-career representative will have a term of 1 year, with the possibility of renewal for an additional term.

Publication Process

Declaring a project:

1. Projects involving DELVE data and associated publication plans should be discussed within the relevant subgroup as early as possible to facilitate cooperation between DELVE members.
2. The project leads will assemble a short summary describing the project and circulate it to the relevant subgroup.
3. Assuming no concerns are raised, the subgroup coordinators will circulate the project description to the full DELVE collaboration and (again assuming no concerns are raised) add the project to the list of projects managed by each subgroup.
4. As projects advance, details should be shared with the group via DELVE telecons and by posting results to the Google drive.

Publishing a paper:

1. Lead authors should periodically circulate paper drafts to the relevant subgroup while paper drafting is in progress.
2. After circulating a complete draft, allow at least a two-week period for paper review and author sign-up, unless there are special circumstances (e.g., specific time pressure from external competition). The planned submission date should be announced to the group.
3. The lead authors on a paper may optionally designate an internal referee to provide critical feedback on the draft.
4. The lead authors should keep the group up-to-date on submission, journal referee comments, and while preparing responses.

Additional details:

1. Papers should include the acknowledgements [listed below](#).
2. Papers need to have a FNAL publication number (see [here](#)).

Authorship on Papers

DELVE uses an opt-in, two-tiered authorship system. The first tier consists of authors that have directly contributed to a particular paper. The second tier consists of authors that have made general contributions to the DELVE project (i.e., “Builders”), and appear in alphabetical order after the first-tier authors. The lead authors on a given paper will have primary responsibility for determining authorship and author order within the first tier (with consultation of DELVE leadership if needed).

Please add, and keep up to date, your author information (e.g., publication name, affiliation) on the master author spreadsheet:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ZTR0pYQdqu1o1M7Wu9A4vIMAgYwTrU-Su9iH9z6cV_s

This list contains author information for all members and is not specific to any single paper. The author list for specific papers will be assembled from this information.

Builders

DELVE members can earn “builder status” by making concrete and identifiable infrastructure contributions to the DELVE project comparable to a month of full-time effort.

Example activities that would count towards builder status (not an exclusive list):

- DELVE observing
- Contributions to DELVE observing tools and observing strategy
- DELVE data processing
- DELVE object catalog creation
- Photometric calibration for DELVE
- Validation and characterization of DELVE object catalogs (e.g., identifying artifacts, evaluating object detection completeness, star-galaxy separation, astrometric precision)
- Organizational responsibilities for the DELVE Collaboration
- Simulations in support of DELVE analyses
- Follow up-observations in support of DELVE analyses
- Scientific input on DELVE analysis through student mentorship, telecons, and emails
- Editorial feedback on DELVE papers

Members are encouraged to discuss their contributions to the project with the DELVE leadership to ensure that their efforts are properly recognized.

Talks Involving DELVE Data

Unpublished DELVE scientific results should not be presented or discussed beyond the DELVE group prior to obtaining approval from the group.

Published DELVE results may be freely included in conference talks, seminars, and colloquia (with appropriate citations). Presenters are encouraged to advertise their slides to the relevant subgroup for feedback prior to the talk, and to post final versions of their slides as a resource for others.

Acknowledgments

DELVE publications should acknowledge supporters of the DELVE Project. Below is a set of standard acknowledgments.

1. DELVE Collaboration: “The DELVE Collaboration gratefully acknowledges support from Fermilab LDRD L2019-011, the NASA Fermi Guest Investigator Program Cycle 9 No. 91201, and the National Science Foundation under Grant No. AST-2108168, AST-2108169, AST-2307126, and AST-2407526. This research is partially funded by a generous gift from Charles Simonyi to the NSF Division of Astronomical Sciences. The award is made in recognition of significant contributions to Rubin Observatory’s Legacy Survey of Space and Time.”
2. Standard DECam acknowledgments listed [here](#).
3. Standard Fermilab Acknowledgement: “Fermilab is managed by FermiForward Discovery Group, LLC under Contract No. 89243024CSC000002 with the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Office of High Energy Physics. The United

States Government retains and the publisher, by accepting the article for publication, acknowledges that the United States Government retains a non-exclusive, paid-up, irrevocable, world-wide license to publish or reproduce the published form of this manuscript, or allow others to do so, for United States Government purposes.”