

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN ASTRONOMY CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE FIRST SEMESTER OF 2027

The Graduate Program in Astronomy (PPGA) of the Observatório Nacional hereby announces the regulations and dates of the selection process for admission to the Master's and Doctoral program in Astronomy in the first semester of 2027, for applicants seeking a fellowship or not. The selection process for admission to the doctorate distinguishes between cases in which candidates already hold a Master's degree and cases of candidates with only an undergraduate degree, the latter being referred to as "Direct Doctorate." The relevant dates of the selection process are given in the table below (applications and appeals will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. on the indicated dates):

Applications	September 14 to October 30
Publication of approved applications and preliminary list of candidates selected for interview	November 6
Appeals	until November 10
Final list of candidates selected for interview	November 20
Interviews	November 25 and 26
Preliminary result	December 1
Hetero-identification	between December 3 and 4
Hetero-identification result	December 7
Appeals	until December 9
Final Result	December 11

1 - Applications

Applications will be open from **September 14 to October 30, 2026** .

The selection process will be carried out by the Astronomy Selection Committee at the end of the period mentioned above, composed of the faculty members of the Graduate Committee in Astronomy (CPGA).

Applicants to the selection process for the Master's and Direct Doctorate may be graduates of a higher education course (Bachelor's, Teaching Degree, or Engineering) in Astronomy, Physics, Mathematics, or related fields, with a degree obtained in Brazil or abroad (official revalidation of the diploma is not required),

or students in the last semester of such courses, who must prove completion (by means of an official document) by the enrollment date, if approved for admission to the PPGA.

Applicants to the selection process for the Doctorate may be holders of an academic Master's degree in Astronomy, Physics, Mathematics, or related fields, with a degree obtained in Brazil or abroad (official revalidation of the diploma is not required), or students who are close to obtaining their diploma, who must prove completion (by means of an official document) by the enrollment date, if approved for admission to the PPGA.

For the purposes of this call, 'related fields' are considered to be undergraduate and academic Master's courses within the area of Exact and Earth Sciences, as well as Mining Engineering, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Nuclear Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, and Mechatronics Engineering, as defined by CNPq.

In this selection process, only projects supervised by Observatório Nacional researchers who are members of the **Permanent Faculty** of the Graduate Program in Astronomy, and who have, at the start of the academic term, a number of ongoing supervisions within the limits established by the program, will be considered; exceptions to this limit may exceptionally be granted by the Graduate Committee in Astronomy upon a request submitted by the faculty member before the close of applications. The list of the Program's Permanent Faculty can be found at:

<https://www.gov.br/observatorio/pt-br/assuntos/programas-academicos/pos-graduacao-em-astronomia/corpo-docente>

A doctoral research project and the designation of an advisor are required for applying to the selection process for the Doctorate and Direct Doctorate. A Master's research project and the designation of an advisor are required only at the time approved candidates enroll in the program. It is up to candidates to contact faculty members and inquire about the possibility of supervision.

1.1 Application Procedures (Master's, Direct Doctorate, and Doctorate):

1. Fill out the application form available at:
<https://sipos.on.br/modulos/astronomia/inscricaoonline/>
2. Attach the following documents on the same page:
 - a. Copy of identification document (RG/CPF or passport).
 - b. Undergraduate transcript (for admission to the Master's or Direct Doctorate) or Master's transcript (for admission to the Doctorate).
 - c. Curriculum Vitae in Lattes/CNPq format (for Brazilian candidates) or in free format (for foreign candidates).

- d. Signed and dated letter stating the motivation for joining the Graduate Program in Astronomy, of no more than one page and in free format.
- e. Document signed by the candidate listing the following information:
 - i. Completion date of the highest-level course corresponding to the transcript presented, or expected completion date. It must be specified whether the course is a teaching degree (licenciatura) or a bachelor's degree (bacharelado).
 - ii. Cumulative grade point average (CR) of the highest-level course corresponding to the transcript presented, indicating the grading scale and, if the transcript uses letter grades/concepts, the grade-to-score equivalence used in the calculation.
 - iii. Participation in undergraduate research projects (for applicants to the Master's or Direct Doctorate) in astronomy or related fields, with supporting documentation, project title, advisor, institution, and start and end dates.
 - iv. Any articles on astronomy or related fields published in peer-reviewed journals or accepted for publication, with supporting documentation, including a brief description of the candidate's actual contribution, the article title, journal name, year of publication, and list of authors, explicitly indicating the candidate's position in the author list.
 - v. Participation, with supporting documentation, in events related to astronomy or related fields where work was presented, stating the format, event name, event type, date, and type of participation.
 - vi. Teaching activities, with supporting documentation.
- f. Copy of the Undergraduate diploma (for applications to the Master's and Direct Doctorate) or Master's diploma (for applications to the Doctorate), or a statement from the educational institution certifying that the candidate meets all requirements for obtaining the diploma and that it is in process, or a statement from the educational institution indicating that it can be obtained by the enrollment date at the PPGA.
- g. Any other documents or information the candidate considers relevant to their evaluation (optional), it being up to the Committee, in this case, to take such documents into account or not.
- h. Considering affirmative action policies — namely, Black, Brown, and Indigenous persons (PPI) or persons with disabilities (PcD), as well as candidates who are mothers who had children through adoption or gestation within five years before July 31, 2026 — **candidates who hold Brazilian citizenship** may voluntarily indicate this option on the application form, provided they meet the criteria set out in Annex I.

- i. Candidates who identify within the affirmative action policies must send the completed and signed Self-Declaration Form (Annex II) to secpga@on.br by the final date of the application period of this call.
 - ii. Attention must be paid to the requirement for supplementary documents according to the specificity of each affirmative action group, which must also be sent to secpga@on.br by the final date of the application period of this call.
3. Applicants to the Master's and Direct Doctorate must have taken, between 2024 and 2026, one of the following unified examinations: (a) the Unified Physics Graduate Examination (EUF) (at <http://www1.fisica.org.br/~euf/>), or (b) the Unified Chemistry Examination (<https://euq.sbq.org.br/>), sending the certificate with the score obtained to secpga@on.br by the final date of the application period of this call.
4. Applicants to the Direct Doctorate and Doctorate must, at the time of application, have defined their advisor and their doctoral project.
5. Applicants to the Doctorate and Direct Doctorate must request at least two letters of recommendation from people familiar with their academic background and research history. Letters from researchers and faculty affiliated with Brazilian or foreign teaching and research institutions will be considered. Letters of recommendation from the supervisors of the doctoral research projects submitted by the candidate will not be considered. These letters must be sent directly to secpga@on.br by the final date of the application period, from the institutional e-mail addresses of the faculty members/researchers, using the template attached to this call.
6. Applicants to the Direct Doctorate and Doctorate must send, at the time of application, to secpga@on.br:
 - a. Research project;
 - b. Signed letter from the advisor stating their commitment to supervise the candidate and the project topic, briefly explaining why the project is suitable for the Observatório Nacional's Graduate Program in Astronomy and how it fits into their research line. Any co-advisors and their contribution to the project must also be specified.

2 - Approval of Applications

After the close of applications, the submitted documentation will be verified by the office of the Division of Graduate Programs.

Master's candidates who have submitted all the documentation required by this call will have their applications approved and will be eligible to participate in the selection process.

Direct Doctorate and Doctorate candidates who have submitted all the documentation required by this call, and whose projects are compatible with the research lines of the Observatório Nacional's Graduate Program in Astronomy and whose advisors are in a position to take on new supervisions, will have their applications approved and will be eligible to participate in the selection process.

Failure to comply with the procedures or the absence of any documents required by this call will result in the rejection of the application.

3 - Selection of Candidates for Interview

Doctoral candidates with approved applications are automatically qualified for the interview.

In the case of Master's or Direct Doctorate candidates, the documentation of candidates with approved applications will be evaluated by the members of the Astronomy Selection Committee, who will carry out a pre-selection of candidates based on their ranking on the Unified Examination and on the items listed in section **1.1.2.e** of this call, which will make up a score from 0 to 10 reflecting the candidate's academic background and experience in research, teaching, and outreach. This score will be defined based on the following items:

1. Type of undergraduate course (non-cumulative): up to 2 points
2. CR (normalized to a 0-to-10 scale): up to 2 points
3. Undergraduate research, teaching assistantship, and outreach activities in the last 4 years: up to 2 points
4. Participation in events in the last 4 years: up to 2 points
5. Published articles: up to 2 points

The final pre-selection score will be calculated as the weighted average of the score assigned to the student's academic background (weight 6) and the percentile of the candidate's ranking on the Unified Examination (weight 4). In the case of candidates who have submitted the Self-Declaration Form (item **1.1.2h**), the score assigned to the student's academic background will be multiplied by a factor of 1.2.

It is up to the Selection Committee to define the criteria used to obtain the score for each item. It is also up to the Selection Committee to define the minimum score for candidates to qualify for the interview, taking into account the set of final scores at this stage, the number of candidates, and the program's capacity to accept new students.

The list of approved applications and the list of candidates approved for interview will be published on the ON website, and candidates will be informed of their scores and any reasons for the non-approval of their applications by e-mail by **November 10, 2026**.

4 - Appeals in the Initial Phase

Appeals regarding the approval of applications and the pre-selection result will be accepted until **November 12, 2026**. Regarding the final pre-selection score, only appeals concerning possible errors in the assignment of scores to candidates, according to the criteria established in this call, will be considered.

It is up to the selection committee to evaluate the appeals and, where applicable, to compute or recompute scores and redefine the list of candidates approved for interview. The results of the appeals will be communicated to candidates by e-mail, and the final list of candidates approved for interview will be published on the ON website by **November 17, 2026**.

5 - Interviews

Applicants for admission to the Master's and Direct Doctorate who are pre-selected, and applicants for the Doctorate with an approved application, must undergo an oral examination on their curriculum, academic transcript, academic and research background, and research project presented (where applicable), to be held remotely with the participation of the members of the PPGA Selection Committee. The interviews will take place between **November 24 and 25, 2026**. Pre-selected candidates will be informed by e-mail, by the day before these dates, of their interview times.

The interviews will be conducted by members of the Selection Committee, and may be attended by the CPGA student representative and by permanent faculty members of the PPGA. The members of the Selection Committee will assign each candidate individual scores from 0 to 10 reflecting their personal assessment of the interview, taking into account the candidate's background and their estimated potential to participate in the academic life of the ON and successfully complete their graduate studies.

The final interview score will be calculated as the average of the evaluators' individual scores.

6 - Preliminary Results

Candidates with a final interview score lower than 5 will not be considered eligible for admission to the graduate programs.

For the remaining candidates, the Selection Committee will determine the list of approved candidates and their preliminary ranking, defined on the basis of a final overall score calculated as described below:

- Candidates for Admission to the Master's Program
 - Final pre-selection score – weight 4
 - Interview – weight 6.
- Candidates for Admission to the Doctoral Program
 - Analysis of Academic and Professional Background, based on the items listed in item 1.1.2.e – weight 4;
 - Interview – weight 6.

The score for academic and professional background for Doctoral candidates will be defined based on the following items:

1. Master's institution: up to 2 points
2. CR in the Master's program (normalized to a 0-to-10 scale): up to 2 points
3. Letters of recommendation (considering the two best): up to 2 points
4. Participation in events and outreach activities in the last 2 years: up to 2 points
5. Published articles: up to 2 points

In the case of Doctoral candidates who have submitted the Self-Declaration Form (item **1.1.2h**), the score for academic background will be multiplied by a factor of 1.2 before the calculation of the final score.

It is up to the Selection Committee to define the criteria used to obtain the score for each item. It is also up to the Selection Committee to define the minimum scores for approval of candidates' admission to the Master's and Doctoral programs.

In the case of Direct Doctorate candidates, the candidate will be evaluated both by the criteria for admission to the Master's and by the criteria for admission to the Doctorate. In the Doctoral evaluation criteria, the score related to the Master's institution will be replaced by a score related to the candidate's participation in undergraduate research activities (up to 2 points), and the Master's CR will be replaced by the undergraduate CR (as described in section 3). Direct Doctorate candidates will also be evaluated according to the criteria for the Master's, described in section 3. It is up to the Selection Committee to decide, based on the candidate's final score, interview, and ranking on the Unified Examination, whether the candidate can be accepted for admission to the Direct Doctorate. If so, the candidate will be ranked on both the Doctoral and Master's lists. Otherwise, the candidate will be ranked only on the Master's list.

The preliminary lists containing the names of candidates eligible for admission to the graduate programs and their ranking, defined on the basis of the final overall score, will be published on the ON website, and candidates will be informed of their scores by e-mail by **November 30, 2026**.

7 - Hetero-identification Process and Documentary Validation of Self-Declared Candidates (for Brazilian citizens only)

As part of the selection process, candidates who self-declare as Black or Brown must take part in a hetero-identification interview, to be held remotely, conducted by a minimum of three members of the Selection Committee with specific qualifications. Candidates must be informed of the time and means of access for the interviews on the date the list of approved applications is published. After the interview, the members of the hetero-identification panel must produce and sign minutes recording the details of the evaluation process and whether the self-declared candidates are considered eligible or not.

In the case of candidates who self-declare as members of Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, or candidates who have become mothers through gestation or adoption in the last 5 years, eligibility will be determined based on an examination of the documentation submitted.

The result of the hetero-identification process, together with the result of the document analysis of the other self-declared candidates, will be published on the ON website by **December 7, 2026**.

Self-declared candidates who are not considered eligible will have their scores recalculated without applying the 1.2 factor to the academic background score.

8 - Appeals

Appeals regarding the hetero-identification process, the document analysis of the other self-declared candidates, and the preliminary result will be accepted until **December 9, 2026**.

It is up to the selection committee to evaluate the appeals and, where applicable, to recompute the final scores. Regarding the preliminary result, only appeals concerning possible errors in the assignment of scores to candidates, according to the criteria established in this call, will be considered.

9 - Final Result

The final result of the selection process will be published by **December 11**, in the form of the list of approved candidates and their final ranking for the award of CAPES or CNPq study fellowships that may become available during the implementation period.

10 - Final Remarks

The PPGA has institutional CAPES fellowship quotas, as well as CAPES and CNPq pro-rectory fellowships. The number of fellowships to be implemented in the first semester of 2027 is subject to revisions in CAPES institutional quotas, the fellowships offered by CNPq, and the distribution of pro-rectory fellowships among the programs.

At the time this call is issued, the CAPES/CNPq fellowship amounts are as listed in the table below:

Fellowship Level	Monthly Amount	Duration
Master's	R\$ 2,100.00	24 months
Doctorate	R\$ 3,100.00	48 months

Approved candidates will be kept informed about the expected number of fellowships to be implemented in the first semester of 2027 and will have until **January 8, 2027** to confirm to the Program, by e-mail to secpga@on.br, their interest in joining the Program, their intention to receive a fellowship, and, if applicable, to inform the expected date of completion of their undergraduate or Master's course.

Any fellowships that become available during the admission period will be implemented according to the ranking order, up to the day before each agency's implementation schedule, for candidates who have submitted all the required documentation. On the last day of the implementation schedule, fellowships will be implemented in the order in which requests are received.

Fellowship awards will be prioritized for candidates who do not hold formal employment. Candidates who hold formal employment may apply for a fellowship only in cases provided for in the regulations of the respective funding agencies and of the PPGA.

The implementation of fellowships for approved foreign candidates will only take place if they hold the appropriate visa for residing in Brazil. Obtaining the visa is the sole responsibility of the candidate.

It is up to the Graduate Committee in Astronomy to resolve any cases not covered by this call.

Further information can be obtained on the Graduate Program in Astronomy webpage:

<https://www.gov.br/observatorio/pt-br/assuntos/programas-academicos/pos-graduacao-em-astronomia>

Rio de Janeiro, September 11, 2026.