

## GRADUATE PROGRAM IN ASTRONOMY SELECTION FOR APPLICATIONS FIRST SEMESTER 2026

The National Observatory's Graduate Program in Astronomy (PPGA) makes public the regulations and dates of the selection process to join the Master's course and Doctorate in Astronomy (PhD) in the first semester of 2026 for students who apply for scholarships or not. The selection process for admission to the doctorate differentiates between the cases in which candidates already have a Master's degree and the cases of candidates only with an undergraduate degree, the latter being called "Direct Doctorate".

### 1- Registration

Registration will be open during the period of **September 15<sup>th</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

The selection process will be carried out by the Astronomy Selection Committee at the end of the period mentioned above.

For the Master's and Direct Doctorate the eligible candidates are undergraduates in higher education (Bachelorate, Degree or Engineering) in Astronomy, Physics, Mathematics or related areas, with degrees obtained in Brazil or abroad (the official revalidation of the diploma is not required), or students attending the last semester of these courses; the later must prove the completion until the date of registration, if approved for entry in the PPGA.

For the selection process for Doctorate the eligible candidates are the holders of a master's degrees in Astronomy, Physics, Mathematics or related areas, with degrees obtained in Brazil or abroad (the official revalidation of the diploma is not required), or students who are close to obtaining the diploma; the later must prove the completion until the date of registration, if approved for admission to PPGA.

### **Procedures for registration (Master, Direct Doctorate, and Doctorate):**

1. Fill in the registration form available at:  
<https://sipos.on.br/modulos/astronomia/inscricaoonline/>
2. Attach the following documents to the same page:
  - a. Copy of identity document (passport);
  - b. School record of the undergraduate course (ingress in master's or direct doctorate) or master's degree (ingress in doctorate);
  - c. Curriculum Vitae in free format.
  - d. Letter signed and dated containing the motivation for joining the Graduate Program in Astronomy (one page maximum, free format). An annex to the letter shall list the following information:

- i. Date of completion of the highest level course corresponding to the record presented, or completion forecast;
    - ii. Overall grade average corresponding to the record of the highest-level course presented;
    - iii. Participation in scientific initiation projects (for those enrolled in the Master's or Direct Doctorate);
    - iv. Any articles published or accepted for publication (with proof) in arbitrated journals, with a brief description of the actual contribution of the candidate;
    - v. Participation in scientific meetings with work presentations.
  - e. Copy of the undergraduate diploma (inscription for Master and Direct Doctorate) or the Master's degree diploma (inscription for Doctorate), or declaration from the educational institution certifying that the candidate meets all the requirements for obtaining the diploma and that it is in process, or declaration from the educational institution that it can be obtained up to the enrollment data in the PPGA.
  - f. Any other documents which the applicant considers relevant for its assessment (optional).
  - g. Considering affirmative action policies, at this time they will only apply to Brazilian citizens.
3. Candidates for Master's and Direct Doctorate must have participated in the Unified Physical Postgraduate Exam (EUF) (<http://www1.fisica.org.br/~euf/>) between 2023 and 2025 and must send the EUF certificate with the note obtained to [secpga@on.br](mailto:secpga@on.br) until the end of the period of registration of this document.
4. The candidates for the Direct Doctorate and Doctorate must, at the time of registration, have defined his/her/their advisor and doctoral project. This selection process will only consider projects having as advisors members of the National Observatory staff that belong to the **Permanent Teaching Body** of the PPGA:  
<https://www.gov.br/observatorio/en/academic-programs/graduate-program-in-astronomy/faculty-staff>
5. Candidates for Direct Doctorate and Doctorate should send at the time of registration to [secpga@on.br](mailto:secpga@on.br):
- a. Research project.
  - b. Signed letter from the advisor expressing a commitment to guide the candidate and the project theme, explaining briefly why the project is appropriate to the National Observatory's Graduate Program in Astronomy and how it fits into its research line. Any co-advisors and their contribution to the project should also be specified.
  - c. Two (2) letters of recommendation from people familiar with your academic/professional career, excluding the supervisor of the submitted project. Letters should be sent to [secpaga@on.br](mailto:secpaga@on.br) directly by the authors. Letters received after the deadline for registration will not be considered.

## 2 - Approval of the Registrations

After the end of the registration, the sent documentation will be verified by the Secretariat of the Graduate Programs Division. Masters candidates who have sent all the documentation required in this document will have their registrations approved and will

be able to participate in the selection process. The candidates of Direct Doctorate and Doctorate who have sent all documentation required in this document and have projects compatible with the research lines of the Graduate Program in Astronomy of the National Observatory will have their registrations approved and will be able to participate in the selection process.

The list with the names of the candidates with the approved registration will be published on the page of the Graduate Program in Astronomy on **November 21<sup>st</sup> 2025**. Applicants who do not have the approved registration may, with due justification, send the pending documentation to the [secpga@on.br](mailto:secpga@on.br) until **November 26<sup>th</sup> 2025**. The final list with the names of candidates able to participate in the selection process will be published on the page of the Graduate Program in Astronomy on **November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

### 3 - Selection Process

The documentation of the candidates with the approved registration will be evaluated by the members of the Astronomy Selection Committee, who will perform a pre-selection of the candidates for admission to the Master's and Direct Doctorate based on the grade obtained in the EUF test and the analysis of the Curriculum Vitae and the school history.

Applicants for admission to the Master's and Direct Doctorate who are pre-selected and candidates for the Doctorate with approved registration must submit to an oral interview about their curriculum, school history and academic and research trajectory, and the presented research project, to be conducted remotely and with the participation of the members of the PPGA Selection Committee. Interviews will take place on **December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025** (Master) and **December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025** (Direct Doctorate and Doctorate). Pre-selected candidates will be informed about the times of their interviews by e-mail, until the day before that date.

After the interviews, the Selection Committee shall determine the list of approved candidates and the preliminary classification order on the basis of the following criteria:

- Candidates for Master's Degree:
  - a. Note obtained from the EUF test - weight 3;
  - b. Analysis of Academic Trajectory (CV, undergraduate record and other relevant information) - weight 3;
  - c. Interview - weight 4.
- Candidates for admission to the PhD and Direct PhD:
  - a. Analysis of Academic Trajectory (undergraduate or master record, and other relevant information) - weight 3;
  - b. Analysis of Professional Trajectory (technical/scientific production, teaching and extension activities) - weight 3;
  - c. Interview - weight 4

For Brazilian candidates who fit the affirmative action policies, a correction factor of 1.2 will be applied in the note on the analysis of Academic Trajectory. The same factor will be applied to candidate mothers who had children through adoption or pregnancy within five years before July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

## 4 - Results

The Selection Committee shall determine, on the basis of the criteria described in Section 3, the list of approved candidates and the preliminary classification order for the grant of scholarships from CAPES or CNPq, which may be available during the implementation period.

The preliminary result will be released by **December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. Approved candidates that self-declared as of black descent shall be submitted to the heteroidentification procedure by a specific committee, which should take place between **December 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**.

The final classification of the selection process will be disclosed on **December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

Enrollment for those approved in the program will begin in March 2026, according to the program calendar to be announced in due course. The grants which may be available shall be implemented in accordance with the order of classification, until the day before the deadline of implementation schedule of each agency, for applicants who have submitted all the necessary documentation. On the last day of the implementation schedule, grants will be implemented in the order in which requests occur.

The awarding of grants will be prioritized for candidates who do not have employment. Applicants who have employment may apply only in cases provided for in the respective funding agencies and PPGA regulations.

The implementation of scholarships for foreign candidates approved in the selection process will only be carried out if they have the appropriate visa to stay in Brazil. Obtaining a visa is the sole responsibility of the candidate.

Administrative appeals to the preliminary result of the selection process should be sent in a descriptive and documented way to the Postgraduate Commission in Astronomy in up to 3 (three) days after the disclosure of the results, by e-mail to [secpga@on.br](mailto:secpga@on.br).

It will be up to the Commission for Graduate Studies in Astronomy to resolve the missing cases in this document.

Exchange Level	Monthly amount	Duration
Master	R\$ 2,100,00	24 months
Doctorate	R\$3.100,00	48 months

Further information can be obtained from the post-graduation page in astronomy:  
<https://www.gov.br/observatorio/en/academic-programs/graduate-program-in-astronomy>

Rio de Janeiro, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025.