

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN ASTRONOMY SELECTION FOR APPLICATIONS SECOND 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 second 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". The relevant dates are given in the table below.

Registration	May 15 th to June 26 th
Preliminary list of accepted applicants	June 30 th
Final list of accepted applicants	July 3 rd
Interviews	July 7 th to 9 th
Preliminary result	July 14 th
Heteroidentificatiom	July 15 th to 17 th
Requests for reconsideration	July 20 th to 22 th
Final result	July 24 th

1- Registration

Registration will be open during the period of **May 15th to June 26th, 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.

For this semester only will be accepted projects supervised by members of the Permanent Teaching Body of the PPGA who, at the start of the second semester, have fewer graduate students than the maximum limit set in the Program's regulations; exceptions to this limit must have been previously approved by the program's Graduate Commission. The list of the members of Permanent Teaching Body can be consulted at <https://www.gov.br/observatorio/en/academic-programs/graduate-program-in-astronomy/faculty-staff>

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 Physics Graduate Exam (EUF) (<http://www1.fisica.org.br/~euf/>) or the Unified Chemistry Graduate Exam (EUQ) (<https://eug.sbg.org.br/>) between 2024 and 2026 and must send the certificate with the note obtained to 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.

5. Candidates for Direct Doctorate and Doctorate should send at the time of registration to 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.
6. Candidates for Direct Doctorate and Doctorate should request two (2) letters of recommendation from people affiliated to Universities/Research Center that are familiar with the candidate's academic/professional career, excluding the supervisor of the submitted project. Letters should be sent to secpaga@on.br directly by the authors, using the template provided at Annex I.

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 and apt advisors 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 **June 30th 2026**. 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 **July 3rd, 2026**.

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 or EUQ tests 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 between **July 7th and 9th 2028**. Pre-selected candidates will be informed about the times of their interviews by e-mail, until the day before the date of the interview.

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 2;
 - b. Analysis of Academic Trajectory (CV, undergraduate record and other relevant information) - weight 4;
 - 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 31st, 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 **July 14th, 2026**. 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 **July 15th -17nd, 2026**.

Requests for reconsideration of the results of the selection or heteroidentification processes should be submitted to cpga@on.br till **July 22th 2026**.

The final classification of the selection process will be disclosed on **July 24th, 2026**.

Enrollment for those approved in the program will begin on **August 3rd 2026**. 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.

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, May 6th, 2026.

DIVISÃO DE PROGRAMAS DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO – DPPG

PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM ASTRONOMIA

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR CANDIDATES TO THE PHD PROGRAM

Dear Professor, this letter of recommendation help us in the process of selecting the best candidates to our PhD program in Astronomy. We acknowledge your confidential information. Thank you very much for your time. Please, send this letter by email to the following address: **cpga@on.br**

Please, fill below your personal data:

Name:

Institution:

Position:

Academic degree:

Date and place:

Signature:

Name of the candidate:

1. Since when (year) do you know the candidate?

2. In what condition did you know the candidate?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professor at graduate level | <input type="checkbox"/> Professor at post-graduate level |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisor at Master degree | <input type="checkbox"/> Colleague at the University |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Job boss | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |

3. Do you consider that your knowledge of the candidate is:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Mean | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|

4. In a scale from **7** (outstanding) to **1** (very poor), where void means without enough information, please quantify the following items of the candidate:

Learning abilities:

Initiative:

Creativity:

Oral expression:

Written expression:

Capacity to work independently:

Capacity to work in a group:

Vocation for natural science studies:

Basic knowledge in his (her) interest area:

Experience in astronomical observations or data handling:

Experience in computation:

Experience in teaching:

5. If you compare the candidate with other *alumni* you know, do you consider that the candidate is

Outstanding

In the mean

Below the mean

Without information

6. Do you recommend the candidate for activities in your department?

7. In case you would have the opportunity, would you supervise the PhD studies of the candidate?

Yes

Maybe

No

8. Making a summarize of the positive and negative qualities of the candidate, what is your final recommendation?

I strongly recommend

I simply recommend

I recommend with reservations

I do not recommend

9. Please, if do you have another information that would help us to better evaluate the candidate, please use the space below to provide further information.