

# Academic Activities of the Graduate Program in Geophysics

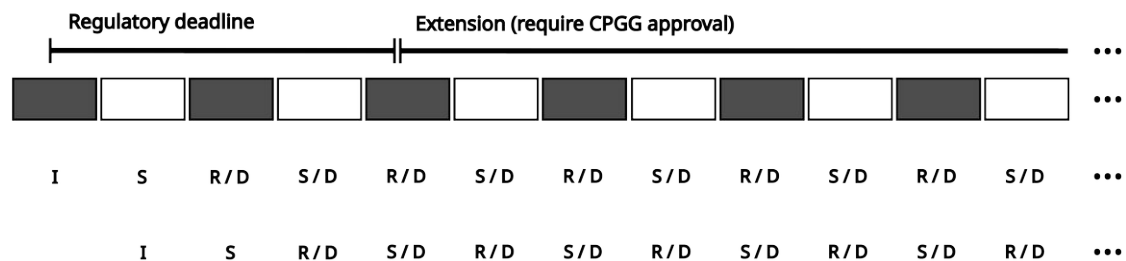
This document complements the information provided in the regulations of the Graduate Program in Geophysics at the National Observatory (PPGG-ON), available at the following address:

<https://www.gov.br/observatorio/en/academic-programs/graduate-program-in-geophysics/rules-regulations>

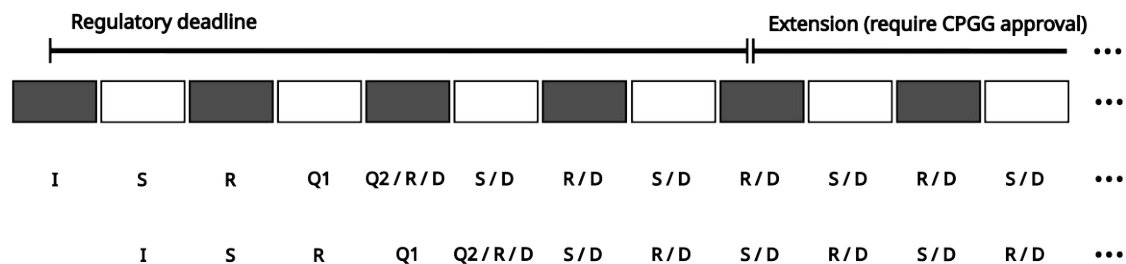
## Brief Description

Figure 1 defines the main academic activities for monitoring master's and doctoral projects in the PPGG-ON.

### Master



### PhD



### Legend

	1° semester	I	Admission to the Graduate Program
	2° semester	S	seminar
		R	report
		D	defense
		Q1	qualifying exam (1st presentation)
		Q2	qualifying exam (2nd presentation)
CPGG	Graduate Program Committee in Geophysics		

*Figure 1: Academic Activity Schedule of the PPGG-ON.*

For example, according to Figure 1, students who enter (I) in the first semester should present a seminar (S) in the second semester, submit a report (R) in the first semester of the following year, and so on. According to our rules, the minimum time for master's students to defend their thesis is one year. Therefore, as shown in Figure 1, the defense (D) for master's students can occur starting from the 3rd (third) trimester after entering the graduate program. Returning to our example, master's students who entered in the first semester can defend their thesis starting from the first semester of the year following their entry into the graduate program.

The main difference between the academic activity schedule for doctoral students compared to master's students is the presence of the qualifying exam. According to our rules, the 2nd (second) seminar for doctoral students constitutes the qualifying exam (Q1). If the qualifying exam is failed, it must be repeated 6 months later (Q2). Failure on the second qualifying exam results in automatic removal from the program.

According to our rules, the minimum time for doctoral students to defend their thesis is two years. Therefore, as shown in Figure 1, the defense (D) for doctoral students can occur starting from the 5th (fifth) trimester after entering the graduate program.

## Annual Seminar for Students

The National Observatory's graduate seminar week in geophysics takes place annually, as indicated on the [program's page](#) under the "[Calendar](#)" section.

The seminars are an important stage in the evaluation process of our program. According to the program's regulations, **failure or unjustified absence may lead to removal from the program.**

**IMPORTANT: Only students who (i) entered in the same semester as the seminar week or (ii) have their defense notice published before the seminar week are exempt from presenting the seminar.**

Those who will present the seminar must submit written material via the academic system two full weeks before the start of the seminar week. This material must be prepared using the template provided in our page.

Using the template does not require creating a GitHub account. Those who cannot or do not want to use the LaTeX template may use Word or LibreOffice, provided the layout is the same as the LaTeX template. The written part may be submitted in Portuguese or English via the academic system. It is recommended that everyone submit a substantial report on the research conducted up to that point, including all possible advancements made since the last annual report or seminar, preferably with chapters that will be part of the thesis/dissertation.

Table 1 specifies the type and duration of the presentations for master's and doctoral students. After presenting the seminar, the student will be questioned by a panel of experts selected by the Graduate Program Committee in Geophysics (CPGG).

Level	Situation	Type of Presentation	Duration (minutes)
Master's	1st seminar	Research project	20 to 30
	Other seminars	Regular seminar	30 to 40
Doctoral	1st seminar	Regular seminar	20 to 30
	2nd seminar	Qualifying exam	40 to 60
	Failed qualifying exam	Re-presentation of the qualifying exam	40 to 60
	Passed qualifying exam	Regular seminar	30 to 40

*Table 1: Specification of the type and duration of annual seminars.*

## General Recommendations

Take advantage of the seminar to organize the results obtained so far, explain what went wrong, explain what went right, define the next steps of your project, create figures and texts that can be used in your thesis/dissertation/article, and, most importantly, present all of this in a clear and organized manner. Remember that you will be evaluated by a panel, and the members may not necessarily be experts in your research field. Assume that you will explain your work to people who are not specialists in your area of research. Generally, this strategy contributes to the clarity of the presentation.

Take advantage of the seminar to improve your public speaking skills. It is normal to struggle with oral presentations. One way to overcome this difficulty is to prepare a script for the speech to be delivered during the presentation. Write down everything that needs to be said for each slide and use these notes to practice. Rehearse your presentation, present it to other students, practice in front of a mirror, etc. Avoid putting too much text on the slides. This is extremely bad for the audience. Pay attention to the font sizes used in the figures. It is important that the information in a chart or map is legible.

It is recommended that those presenting the qualifying exam have at least one article submitted. Remember that the postponement of the qualifying exam can be requested from the CPGG, which must analyze the request and communicate the decision before the seminar week. Please, have this request made by the advisor via email, along with justification. According to our rules, **failure in the qualifying exam for the second consecutive time leads to automatic removal from the program.**

Take the opportunity to write chapters for the thesis and articles. Use the last annual report or seminar report as a starting point to write this report.

Writing is very difficult. One of the most common mistakes in research is underestimating the time needed to write the work developed throughout a research project. This problem is common among students and researchers alike. Our graduate program does not offer a scientific writing course. This means that writing your thesis, dissertation, or article depends solely on you and your advisor. Preparing an oral presentation helps organize your ideas and, consequently, helps in writing the

thesis/dissertation and/or article(s). Use the annual seminar wisely and don't think of it as just another evaluation.