

CIRCULAR No. 2

19th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA 2026)

Hanoi, Vietnam | 25 September - 05 October 2026

Subject: Updates on registration, schedule and academic information

Following Circular No. 1, the Organizing Committee is pleased to provide further information regarding the 19th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA 2026) in Hanoi. Please find below additional updates on the event.

1. List of Pre-Registered Countries

We are delighted to see an encouraging response to IOAA 2026, with pre-registrations from 68 main teams and 4 guest teams. The final decision to include the guest teams in the IOAA will be taken only after completion of registration of main teams.

Algeria	Ecuador	Latvia	Singapore
Argentina	El Salvador	Lithuania	Slovakia
Armenia	Estonia	Macau, China	Slovenia
Australia	Georgia	Malaysia	South Korea
Austria	Germany	Moldova	Sri Lanka
Azerbaijan	Ghana	Nepal	Sweden
Bangladesh	Greece	New Zealand	Switzerland
IOP from Belarus	Hong Kong, China	Norway	Thailand
Bolivia	Hungary	Pakistan	Türkiye
Brazil	India	Palestine	Turkmenistan
Bulgaria	Indonesia	Peru	UAE
Canada	Iran	Philippines	UK
China	IOP from Israel	Poland	Ukraine
Colombia	Italy	Portugal	Uruguay
Croatia	Japan	Romania	USA
Cyprus	Kazakhstan	Saudi Arabia	Uzbekistan
Czechia	Kyrgyzstan	Serbia	Vietnam

2. Programme of IOAA 2026

Day	Date	Time	For Students	For Leaders
0	25/09/2026	All day	Arrival (check in after 02:00 PM) and Registration	
1	26/09/2026	Morning	Registration (continued)	
		Afternoon	Opening Ceremony (03:00 PM)	
2	27/09/2026	Morning	Excursion	IBM Theory
		Afternoon		
		Evening		
3	28/09/2026	Morning	Theory Examination	IBM Observation
		Afternoon	Knowing Telescopes	IBM Observation
		Evening	Free time	IBM Team
4	29/09/2026	Morning	Team Event	IBM Data Analysis
		Afternoon	Free time	
		Evening	Telescope Examination	
5	30/09/2026	Morning	Planetarium	Excursion Culture Activity
		Afternoon	Tour/Training	
		Evening	Excursion/Backup Plan	
6	01/10/2026	Morning	Data Analysis Examination	Moderation: Theory
		Afternoon	Free time	
		Evening	Free time	
7	02/10/2026	Morning	Planetarium Examination	Moderation: Analysis
		Afternoon	Free time	
		Evening	Culture Activity	
8	03/10/2026	Morning	Excursion	IBM Non-Academic Matters
		Afternoon		Final IBM
		Evening		
9	04/10/2026	Morning	Free time	
		Afternoon	Closing Ceremony (03:00 PM)	
10	05/10/2026	All day	Check out and Departure	

Note: Locations for hotels and specific planned excursions will be shared with the registered team coordinators in a separate Announcement.

3. Registration and Visa

Online registration

The online registration process for IOAA 2026 is open from May 06, 2026. Participants are requested to use the same link provided during the pre-registration phase. The deadline for completing registration is June 26, 2026. Team Leaders are kindly requested to ensure that all team members' information is ready prior to this deadline. Should any unforeseen circumstances cause a delay, an extension may be requested by emailing us with the proposed specific date by which registration can be completed. Nevertheless, it is strongly recommended to complete registration at the earliest opportunity to facilitate timely and efficient processing of visa applications.

Official invitation to participate in the IOAA

Official invitations will be sent via email to the Team Leaders, based on the information submitted during pre-registration. If you have not received the invitation after 6 May, please contact us promptly.

Team invitation for visa and other related formalities

Following the close of the registration phase, the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) will issue an official letter of invitation to each registered team. This document will include the names of all participants and details of the event, and may be submitted as part of the application for a Vietnam visa. However, please note that visa issuance may require additional supporting documentation. Refer to the visa information section below for comprehensive guidance.

Visa

Please note that citizens of most countries require a visa to enter Vietnam. Participating teams are strongly encouraged to proactively apply for an **e-visa**, following the official guidelines available at: <https://evisa.gov.vn/>

In addition, participants are advised to contact the nearest **Embassy or Consulate of Vietnam** at the earliest opportunity in order to familiarize themselves with the specific visa application procedures and requirements applicable in their country. A list of Vietnamese overseas missions can be found at: <https://mofa.gov.vn/web/ministry-of-foreign-affairs/overseas-missions>

In cases where participants are unable to apply for an e-visa independently, you are requested to contact the Local Organizing Committee as soon as completing the registration. The Committee will provide support by submitting visa applications on behalf of participants through the **Vietnam Immigration Department (Ministry of Public Security)**. To facilitate this process, participants may be required to provide additional documentation to complete the necessary procedures.

Additional travel-related guidance and updates can also be found on our official website: <https://www.ioaa2026.vn/en/travel-information>

Fees and payment

Registration fee for a participating delegation (up to 5 students and 2 leaders)	EUR 1.200
Registration fee for a small sized participating delegation (up to 3 students and 1 leader)	EUR 250 per person
Fee for each Observer	EUR 1.600
Fee for each Visitor	EUR 2.000

Comprehensive details on the payment process, along with payment instructions and deadlines, will be shared in a separate announcement at the earliest convenience.

Pre and post Olympiad stay

Please note that the default check-in date for both official hotels is September 25, 2026, and the default check-out date is October 5, 2026. Accordingly, all teams are expected to check out before noon of October 5.

For teams planning to arrive before the scheduled date (**September 25, 2026**) and/or depart after the scheduled date (**October 5, 2026**), please be advised that any accommodation outside the official Olympiad period will be at the team's own expense. These charges must be settled directly with the desired accommodations.

If you wish to travel with accompanying persons, reserve accommodation for additional nights at the official hotels or have any other personal requests for your stay, we kindly request Team Leaders to inform us by email at your earliest convenience to be assisted on a case by case basis.

Airport transportation

The primary airport serving the city of Hanoi is Noi Bai International Airport (Airport Code: HAN). Transportation from this airport to the designated official hotels will be provided starting from 08:00 hours on September 25, 2026. For teams arriving a few hours earlier, transportation may be arranged upon prior request.

Delegation leaders and students will be transported directly from the airport to their respective hotels. Teams arriving on or before September 24 are advised to make their own arrangements to reach the official hotels on the afternoon of September 25.

On October 5, teams scheduled to depart from Hanoi will be transported to the airport during the designated service window of 08:00 - 17:00.

4. Academic Information

Poster Competition

The Academic Committee has been established and has commenced preparation of examination materials in accordance with IOAA standards.

As in previous editions, IOAA 2026 will feature a Poster Competition. Participating delegations are invited to submit entries in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Each national delegation may submit up to two posters.
2. Only students who are eligible to participate in IOAA 2026, regardless of whether they are ultimately selected, may be designated as principal authors or co-authors.
3. For each poster, at least one author or co-author must be a student officially participating in IOAA 2026.
4. A single poster may include no more than five authors or co-authors.
5. A student's name may not appear on more than one poster, whether as a principal author / co-author.

Participants may choose one of the following five themes for their poster(s):

- A. The influence of astronomy and/or the contributions of amateur astronomers to youth education and training in your country.
- B. The influence of astronomy on the development of culture, science, technology, or economy in your country.
- C. The importance of space science and technology for the future and survival of humankind.
- D. Introduce some prominent astronomical research activities in your country.
- E. Describe an open problem in astronomy and cosmology and propose an idea to solve it.

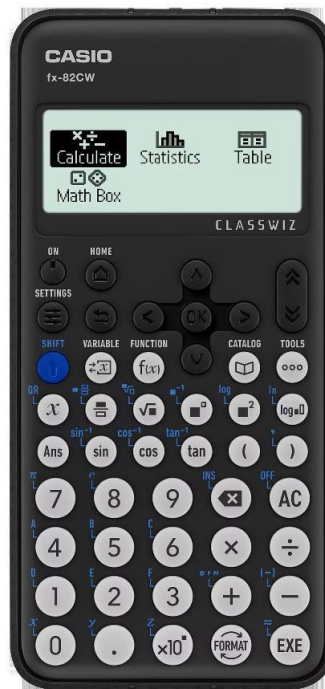
We encourage delegations to begin preparing early and to showcase both scientific inquiry and cultural heritage through their submissions.

Equipment and Software for IOAA 2026

Calculators

A standard scientific calculator, CASIO fx-82CW, will be provided to each contestant as part of the registration kit. This is the only calculating device permitted for use throughout the competition. Personal calculators are prohibited, even if they have the same model as the CASIO fx-82CW. Contestants take responsibility for bringing their designated calculator to each examination round. For more information about the CASIO fx-82CW functions and features, please consult the [product manual](#).

We sincerely thank CASIO Singapore for generously donating 350 scientific calculators for IOAA 2026.



The CASIO fx-82CW standard scientific calculator (Source: CASIO).

Telescopes

Newtonian telescopes with an optical diameter of 150 mm, a focal length of 750 mm, and a focal ratio of F/5 will be used during the telescope examination. These optical devices are manufactured by Sky-Watcher under the product designation BK P15075 EQ3. Detailed specifications can be found on the [product page](#).



The BK P15075 EQ3 telescope (Source: Sky-Watcher).

Stopwatches and Accessories

For certain rounds, each contestant will receive a CASIO HS-70W digital stopwatch. This is a professional timer featuring 100-lap memory and 1/1000-second precision.

Additionally, each contestant will be equipped with an ONNIGHT 100 versatile headlamp during certain rounds. Using LED technology, this device produces a wide, uniform beam with a brightness of 80 lm. Users can readily switch between three lighting modes: red, eco white, and strong white.



The CASIO HS-70W digital stopwatch (Source: Nam Viet Sport) and the ONNIGHT 100 versatile headlamp (Source: DECATHLON).

Planetarium

The planetarium examination will take place in Phenikaa University Planetarium. This modern planetarium features a 16 m dome. Sony GTZ380 projectors are combined to achieve a total resolution of 6.7 K. Phenikaa University Planetarium uses SkyExplorer to simulate natural and astronomical phenomena. For more information about SkyExplorer, please refer to the [RSA Cosmos website](#).



Phenikaa University Planetarium (Source: Phenikaa University).

5. Miscellaneous Information

Communication Devices

Students must deposit all mobile phones, laptops, tablets, smartwatches, and any other communication devices with their team leaders immediately upon the opening ceremony. Possession of such devices during any examination or competition activity is strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification from IOAA 2026. All personal devices will be returned to students after the completion of all examination rounds, during the common dinner on October 2, 2026.

Flags

Large flags representing each participating country will be displayed at the event venues. Country Coordinators are kindly requested to verify and approve the flag motifs during the online registration process. The approved flag motifs will be digitally showcased on stage during the team parade.

Weather

Late September to early October in Hanoi typically marks the transition from summer to autumn, featuring a generally warm climate with moderate humidity. Average temperatures range from **25°C to 32°C**, with occasional light to moderate rainfall. In rare cases, temperatures may approach **40°C**.

Participants are advised to prepare light, breathable clothing suitable for warm weather, along with a light jacket for cooler evenings. It is also recommended to bring sun protection (such as hats, sunscreen), as well as raincoats, waterproof footwear, or other appropriate gear for intermittent rain.

Tours

Beyond the excursions included in the official programme of the Olympiad, participants are encouraged to take this opportunity to further explore Hanoi in particular and Vietnam more broadly. Suggestions for places to visit and experiences to enjoy have been carefully curated and are available on the official IOAA 2026 website under the *Excursions* section: <https://www.ioaa2026.vn/en/excursions>

Please note that any arrangements made with third-party agencies are the sole responsibility of the participants, and the IOAA 2026 Local Organizing Committee accepts no liability for matters related to these private tourism services.

Contact

All circulars and relevant information are available on our official website at <https://www.ioaa2026.vn/en> which is regularly updated.

For any information/queries, please contact:

IOAA 2026 Secretariat

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Tel: +84 (0) 948245535

Email: ioaa2026@hanoiedu.vn (for general enquiries); ioaa2026@phenikaa-uni.edu.vn (for VISA support)

We look forward to seeing you at the 19th IOAA!

With highest regards,

19th IOAA Secretariat