

CIRCULAR No. 3

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

Hanoi, Vietnam | 25 September - 5 October 2026

Subject: Updates on registration deadline extension, payment details, travel plans, currency, excursions and travel essentials.

As the Road to IOAA 2026 enters its final stages, we are delighted to count down the two remaining months before we welcome you to Hanoi.

Currently, a total of 56 countries/teams have successfully completed their official registration, and we anticipate welcoming over 20 more teams in the upcoming weeks. To ensure that every single detail is meticulously prepared for all the team's arrival and comfortable stay, please find below some important logistical updates for IOAA 2026.

1. Registration

Deadline Extension

In response to numerous requests from various delegations and to allow teams ample time for preparation, the LOC has officially extended the registration deadline to **July 31, 2026**.

Policy on Guest Teams

After a thorough assessment of facility capacity, hosting logistics, and the high volume of official national delegation registrations, the LOC has decided not to accommodate guest teams for IOAA 2026. We deeply appreciate your enthusiastic interest and kind understanding as we prioritize providing the highest standards of hospitality and organization for all official national teams.

Fee and Payment details

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 max 1 leader)	EUR 250 per person
Fee for each Observer	EUR 1.600
Fee for each Visitor	EUR 2.000

After August 25, provided that the registration of all team leaders, observers, and visitors has been successfully completed, the official invoice for the total fees payable will be provided on the official IOAA 2026 registration portal.

The fees can be paid either online (through cards / Paypal) or by bank transfer (details below).
The last date for fee payment is August 25, 2026.

Name of the Beneficiary Bank: Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Foreign Trade of Vietnam (Vietcombank)

Account Number: 001100.6888.688

SWIFT Code: BFTV VNVX

Name of Account Holder: KHO BẠC NHÀ NƯỚC KHU VỰC I

Address of Account Holder: Tower B - Vincom Center, 191 Ba Trieu, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, Vietnam

Identification Remark: IOAA2026_CountryName

If you pay by a bank transfer, kindly send us the transfer evidence by email.

Cash payment upon arrival will be permitted only in exceptional cases where international online transactions to Vietnam are not supported by your bank. Should you wish to avail yourself of this option, kindly inform us in advance via email.

2. Currency Exchange

The official currency of Vietnam is the Vietnamese Dong (VND). Cash is handled exclusively via polymer and paper banknotes in denominations of 500,000; 200,000; 100,000; 50,000; 20,000; 10,000; 5,000; 2,000; and 1,000 VND. Coins are not in circulation in Vietnam.

Crucial Advice on Cash Usage:

- Carrying local cash is highly essential. Credit and debit cards are not widely accepted in Vietnam, particularly at small vendors, local stalls, or convenience shops.
- While exchange services are available at the Team Leaders' hotel and currency booths in designated tourist areas, all delegates - especially students - are strongly advised to exchange an adequate amount directly at the airport upon arrival. This ensures you have sufficient cash on hand for personal expenses during your 10-day stay at the university dormitories.

3. Accommodation

In accordance with IOAA tradition, accommodations for Team Leaders/Observers/Visitors and Students will be arranged at two separate locations to ensure the integrity of the competition.

For Team Leaders & Observers & Visitors: Army Hotel

Team Leaders, Observers and Visitors will stay at the Army Hotel, a classic 4-star property ideally nestled in the center of Hanoi. The hotel features fully-equipped rooms, workspace collaborations, printing facilities, swimming pool, and gym.

For Students: Phenikaa University Dormitories

Students will be accommodated at the Phenikaa University Dormitories, located directly within the university campus and within short walking distance of all official competition venues. The location offers furnished shared rooms, en-suite bathrooms, regular housekeeping, laundry, and prayer rooms

Extended stay policy

Accommodation costs outside the official Olympiad period (before 2:00 PM on September 25 or after 5:00 PM on October 5) will be at the delegations' own expense. Upon request via email, the LOC can reserve extended-stay rooms at the official venues on your behalf. All payments for these bookings must be settled directly with the hotel/dormitory. Delegations that choose to stay at alternative locations must manage their arrangements independently.

4. Local Transportation

All transportation related to airport pick-up and drop-off, examinations (for students), excursions, and the opening and closing ceremonies will be arranged by the LOC.

Arrival and Departure Timings

You are kindly requested to enter your travel itinerary (including the flight code) using the link provided on your country's registration page by **September 1, 2026**. All teams are expected to arrive and depart via Noi Bai International Airport (airport code: HAN). If your travel plans differ, please notify us by email in advance.

Transportation from Noi Bai Airport to the designated official hotels/dormitories will be provided by the organizers starting from 08:00 hours on September 25, 2026. For departures on October 5, transport to the airport will be available between 08:00 and 17:00.

For earlier arrivals or later departures, transport arrangements can be made, if possible, on request. At the airport, IOAA volunteers holding placards with "IOAA 2026" will be stationed outside the international arrivals exit (terminal 2).

In case of any difficulty, you can contact us via WhatsApp group of Team leaders.

Students and leaders will be separated at the airport and taken to different locations. Therefore, please ensure that luggage is packed, segregated and labelled accordingly to facilitate smooth handling.

Excursions

Excursions for students, leaders, observers, and visitors to places of interest in Hanoi have been arranged on the days specified in the schedule. These guided tours are scheduled as follows:

For Students:

- Sunday, September 27 (Full Day): Journey through history with a morning and afternoon tour to the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long and the Temple of Literature.
- Saturday, October 3 (Full Day): A creative hands-on experience with a morning and afternoon trip to the historic Bat Trang Pottery Village.

For Leaders, Observers, and Visitors:

- Wednesday, September 30 (Full Day): A curated combined tour to both the Temple of Literature and Bat Trang Pottery Village, blending cultural discovery with traditional craftsmanship.

All guests are recommended to wear closed shoes with good grip during excursions. Carrying your umbrella is essential. Students are not permitted to leave the contest venue except during planned excursions and must always be accompanied by their student liaison officer. Leaders,

observers, and visitors are free to explore the city on their own; using the recommended cabs/taxis apps on the website/handbook.

5. Power, Telephone and Internet

The main power supply in Vietnam is a standard voltage of 220V and frequency of 50Hz. Details of power sockets and plugs are given on the website/handbook. The international telephone code for Vietnam is “+84” and the local area code for Hanoi is “24”.

Leaders, Observers and Visitors

Wi-Fi-based internet connection will be available free of cost in the rooms and common spaces of the Leader’s hotel.

Students

Students are required to deposit all mobile phones, laptops, tablets, smartwatches, and similar wireless communication devices with their team leaders after the opening ceremony. Students found in possession of electronic or other communication devices during the competition may face disqualification from IOAA. Personal electronic devices will be returned to students after the conclusion of the examination rounds, during the common dinner on October 2, 2026.

In case of emergencies, contestants should contact their respective student liaison officer, who will notify the appropriate authorities to facilitate communication with the leaders, if necessary.

6. Travel Essentials

Climate and clothing

Late September to early October in Hanoi marks the transition to autumn. The weather is generally warm with moderate humidity. Average temperatures range from 25°C to 32°C. Participants’ clothing package should include: Light, breathable clothing for daytime, a light jacket for cooler evenings, sun protection (hats, sunscreen), raincoats or umbrellas and waterproof footwear for occasional showers, traditional costumes (for cultural evening)

While formal attire is not required for the ceremonies, participants are advised to avoid overly casual dress on these occasions. Traditional attire is also welcome. A cultural get-together night for students will be held at the same venue on the evening of October 2, immediately following the common dinner.

Health and safety

We advise all participants to acquire necessary medical and travel insurance before leaving your country.

Emergency medical care will be available in the locations of stay. First-aid boxes will be available at all times during excursion. However, it will be advisable to bring your own personal prescription medications and basic first-aid supplies for individual convenience.

Essential documents and miscellaneous items

Don’t forget to carry your valid passport with visa, travel insurance (including medical coverage), flight tickets or itinerary, and emergency contact information (local organizers, embassy, family).

You may also want to bring a few passport-size photographs, some light snacks or energy bars, and a small lock for your luggage.

7. Poster Competition

The participating delegations are warmly invited to enter the IOAA 2026 Poster Competition. Please ensure that all submissions comply with the official guidelines outlined in Circular #2. The specific requirements for submission are as follows:

- Language: The poster must be written entirely in English.
- Format & Size: The file must be saved in PDF format and designed appropriately for A0 size printing.
- Deadline & Link: The poster must be uploaded via [the submission link](#) no later than September 10, 2026.

Please note that there is no requirement for participants to bring printed copies. The organizing committee will handle the printing process for all submitted posters.

8. Submission of Signed Codes of Conduct

All teams are requested to print and sign the applicable IOAA Codes of Conduct as follows:

- **Team leaders** are to print and sign the document titled “*IOAA Code of Conduct*,” available on our official website at <https://www.ioaa2026.vn/en/ioaa-procedural-code>.
- **Students** are to print and sign the document titled “*Rules for Student Participants*,” also available on our official website at <https://www.ioaa2026.vn/en/ioaa-code-of-conduct-for-student-participants>.

Each team is requested to submit these signed copies to the 19th IOAA Secretariat at Army Hotel upon arrival. Further instructions will be provided.

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

Address: Nguyen Trac Street - Duong Noi Ward - Hanoi

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