

CIRCULAR NO. 4

Updates on Official Program, Reception & Logistics, and Confirmation Items

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

To: Team Leaders of Participating Countries and Territories in IOAA 2026

The 19th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA 2026) is entering its final stage of preparation.

Starting from 25 September 2026, the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) will begin welcoming international delegations to Hanoi. According to statistics recorded as of 14:00 on 28 August 2026, a total of 487 delegates - including students, Team Leaders, Observers, visitors, and members of the International Board - will participate in IOAA 2026. Please refer to **Appendix 1** for more information.

To ensure that reception, accommodation, examinations, and official activities are carried out carefully, consistently, and smoothly, the Local Organizing Committee hereby issues Circular No. 4, providing updates on the official program and key actions to be completed before arriving in Hanoi.

Team Leaders are kindly requested to pay attention to the deadlines and requirements in this Circular and complete the required information for all delegation members via the official registration form via this link:

<https://www.ioaa2026.vn/en/registration>

Phenikaa University serves as the main venue for the primary academic and operational activities of IOAA 2026.

Opening Ceremony: Saturday, 26 September 2026, from 15:00 to 18:00;

Closing Ceremony: Sunday, 4 October 2026, from 15:00 to 18:00.

1. REQUIRED INFORMATION TO BE COMPLETED BY DELEGATIONS

To enable the LOC to make full arrangements for reception, accommodation, transportation, and event activities, Team Leaders are requested to review, update, and confirm the details of all delegation members using the official registration link provided to your team.

To log in and complete the form, please use the invitation code issued during the previous registration phase.

The LOC will send Team Leaders an updated information form covering the following items:

1.1. Flight itinerary and details

Please provide accurate flight information for each member before **10 September 2026**, including:

- Flight number;
- Scheduled arrival date and time in Hanoi;
- Scheduled departure date and time from Hanoi;

- Arrival/departure airport, origin/destination, and other necessary details for transfer arrangements.

This information is essential for the LOC to schedule airport reception and transportation services.

1.2. Travel Insurance

All participants traveling to Vietnam must hold valid travel insurance. Delegation leaders should keep these insurance details on hand in case any member requires major medical care.

1.3. Official Delegation Photo

Each delegation is kindly asked to upload 1 high-resolution group photo, preferably including all students, Team Leaders, and Observers if you already have one; otherwise, the LOC will take a photo of your team at the airport upon arrival.

The photo will be used for media communications, event archives, and team introductions at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

1.4. Excursion Program Registration

Scheduled excursion destinations include the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long, the Temple of Literature, and Bat Trang Pottery Village.

Team Leaders are requested to submit a unified registration for the entire delegation via the LOC form.

1.5. Cultural Gala Performance Registration

To prepare the program for the Cultural Gala held on **2 October 2026** at Phenikaa University, delegations may register 1 performance (duration: 3 to 5 minutes), such as singing, folk dance, or instrumental performance (teams must bring their own instruments) to represent their cultural traditions. Please register via the LOC form before **10 September 2026**.

2. TENTATIVE IOAA 2026 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Delegations are kindly requested to refer to the official program schedule below to plan travel, accommodation, exams, meetings, excursions, and attendance at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

Date	Day	Time	Students	Team Leaders	
Sept 25	Fri	Afternoon	Arrival (check-in after 14:00) and Registration		
		Night			
Sept 26	Sat	Morning	Registration (continued)		
		Afternoon	Opening Ceremony (15:00 to 18:00)		
		Night			
Sept 27	Sun	Morning	Excursion (Imperial Citadel & Temple of Literature)	IBM Meeting: Theory Exam	
		Afternoon	Free Time		
		Night			

Sept 28	Mon	Monring	Exam: Theory	IBM Meeting: Team Exam & Observation Exam	
		Afternoon	Introduction to Telescopes		
		Night	Free Time		
Sept 29	Tue	Morning	Team Competition	IBM Meeting: Data Analysis Exam	
		Afternoon	Free Time		
		Night	Exam: Telescope (Observation)		
Sept 30	Wed	Morning	Exam: Telescope (Backup Plan)	Excursion (Bat Trang & Temple of Literature)	
		Afternoon	Planetarium Visit	Free Time	
		Night	Free Time		
Oct 01	Thu	Morning	Exam: Data Analysis	Moderation: Theory & Telescope Exams	
		Afternoon	Free Time		
		Night		Free Time	
Oct 02	Fri	Morning	Exam: Planetarium		Free Time
		Afternoon			
		Night	Cultural Evening (16:30 - 22:00)		
Oct 03	Sat	Morning	Excursion (Bat Trang)	Moderation: Data Analysis & Planetarium Exams	
		Afternoon	Free Time	IBM Meeting: Non-Academic Issues	
		Night		IBM Meeting: Closing & Medal Cut-offs	
Oct 04	Sun	Morning	Closing Ceremony (15:00 to 18:00)		
		Afternoon			
		Night			
Oct 05	Mon	Morning	Departures		

Note: The program is subject to adjustment if necessary due to academic, weather, safety, or operational requirements. Any official changes will be communicated directly to Team Leaders via official IOAA 2026 channels.

3. OPENING CEREMONY

The IOAA 2026 Opening Ceremony will take place at Phenikaa University on Saturday, 26 September 2026, from 15:00 to 18:00.

Delegations are requested to gather at the designated assembly area at least 60 minutes prior to the opening time to complete check-in, be seated, and ready for the ceremony.

Dress code: Formal attire. Delegations are encouraged to wear national or traditional attire where appropriate.

Student Electronic Device Management

Shortly after the Opening Ceremony, the students must hand over all mobile phones, laptops, tablets, smartwatches, and other wireless communication devices to their Team Leaders as instructed by the LOC.

The possession and use of electronic devices during the competition period must comply strictly with the IOAA Statutes and LOC guidelines.

4. CLOSING CEREMONY

The IOAA 2026 Closing Ceremony will take place at Phenikaa University on Sunday, 4 October 2026, from 15:00 to 18:00.

At the Closing Ceremony, the LOC will announce official results and present medals, awards, and certificates approved by the International Board and Jury in accordance with IOAA Statutes.

Delegations are requested to:

- Arrive 60 minutes prior to the scheduled start time;
- Be seated in designated areas;
- Follow stage entry and exit instructions when receiving awards;
- Comply with instructions from Liaison Officers, ushers, and LOC staff throughout the ceremony.

Detailed information regarding hall location, seating charts, student award assembly areas, stage flow, media, photo sessions, and post-ceremony receptions will be sent to delegations.

5. INVOICE AND PAYMENT-RELATED REQUESTS

As previously shared with Team Leaders on WhatsApp group on 18 August 2026, delegations requiring an invoice with customized details for internal payment procedures are requested to complete the invoice template in **Appendix 2** and submit it to: ioaa2026@hanoiedu.vn.

Deadline for resubmitting your completed invoice with full payer details: By 14:00 on 10 September 2026 - Vietnam Time (UTC+7). Requests submitted after this deadline may not be processed.

Important Note Regarding Bank Transfer Fees:

Based on information received from the bank, the LOC notes that several delegations have completed their bank transfers, but the net amount received is less than required due to deductions for bank transaction fees.

- Delegations with outstanding fee balances: The LOC will send an updated list directly to the relevant Team Leaders. These delegations are kindly requested to settle the remaining balance in cash at the bank upon their arrival in Hanoi.

- Delegations that have not yet made payment are strongly advised to select a transfer option under which all banking charges, including fees charged by the sending, intermediary, and beneficiary banks are borne by the sender/remitter.

6. IOAA 2026 CONTACTS

To ensure prompt and correct assistance, please contact the designated focal points listed below:

Category	Focal Point	Telephone	Email / Contact Channel
General information, registration, invitation letters	IOAA Secretariat	+84 948 245 535	ioaa2026@hanoiedu.vn
Academic & Scientific matters	Prof. Dr. Pham Thanh Huy	+84 912 019 429	ioaa2026@hanoiedu.vn
Airport transfers, transportation	Ms. Bui Thi Kieu Anh	+84 913315174	WhatsApp group: Team Leaders - IOAA 2026 Vietnam
Hotel, accommodation	Ms. Bui Thi Kieu Anh	+84 913315174	WhatsApp group: Team Leaders - IOAA 2026 Vietnam
Excursions - Cultural Evening	Ms. Bui Thi Kieu Anh	+84 913315174	WhatsApp group: Team Leaders - IOAA 2026 Vietnam
Finance - Invoices	Ms. Bui Thi Kieu Anh	+84 913315174	ioaa2026@hanoiedu.vn
24/7 Emergency support	Ms. Bui Thi Kieu Anh	+84 913315174	-

All official announcements and updates for IOAA 2026 are published on the official website: <https://www.ioaa2026.vn/en>.

The Local Organizing Committee sincerely appreciates the close cooperation of all delegations.

We look forward to welcoming Students, Team Leaders, Observers, and all IOAA participants to Hanoi - the City for Peace - to participate in a safe, professional, friendly, and memorable IOAA.

We look forward to seeing you in beautiful Hanoi!

With highest regards,

IOAA 2026 LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

APPENDIX 1: IOAA 2026 REGISTERED COUNTRIES
Total: 66 Countries / Territories, 66 main teams and 1 guest team.

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

APPENDIX 2: INVOICE TEMPLATE FOR IOAA 2026
(As attached)