

CIRCULAR No. 1

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

Hanoi, Vietnam | 25 September – 05 October 2026

1. Official Announcement

The Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam (MOET), as the National Authority for IOAA 2026, is pleased to announce that the 19th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA 2026) will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 25 September to 05 October 2026.

IOAA 2026 is organized by the Hanoi People's Committee (Host City Authority) and organized in cooperation with MOET, the Hanoi Department of Education and Training (Hanoi DOET), and Phenikaa University (Local Organizing Institutions).

The Olympiad will be held at Phenikaa University, Hanoi.

2. Organizing Structure (Three-tier Authority)

- National Authority: Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam (MOET)
- Host City Authority: Hanoi People's Committee
- Local Organizing Institutions: Hanoi Department of Education and Training; Phenikaa University

3. Important Dates

- **Pre-registration opens:** March 12, 2026
- **Pre-registration closes:** April 12, 2026
- **Main registration opens:** May 6, 2026
- **Main registration closes:** June 26, 2026
- **Arrival of delegations** (hospitality begins in the afternoon): September 25, 2026
- **IOAA 2026 Opening Ceremony:** September 26, 2026
- **IOAA 2026 Closing Ceremony:** October 4, 2026
- **Departure** (hospitality ends at noon): October 5, 2026

4. Participants and Eligibility Criteria

Students

- Must have been born on or after July 1, 2006.
- Must not have finished high school (Grade 12 or equivalent) before January 1, 2026.
- Must hold either citizenship or permanent residency in their representing country.

Team Leaders/Observers

- Must be professional/amateur astronomers, university/school teachers, or past national/international Olympiad winners to guarantee the ability to engage in academic discussions during IOAA 2026.

- Must possess English fluency in both written and spoken communication.
- New countries may elect to participate in IOAA 2026 without sending students. In that case, each team member will serve as an observer.

Visitors

- The term ‘Visitors’ refers to delegation members who do not fulfill the eligibility criteria for team leaders, observers, or students.
- Typically, this category encompasses ministry officials, family members of team leaders or observers, and parents of participating students.

Inclusion of Guest Teams

It should be noted that the inclusion of guest teams in IOAA 2026 is not guaranteed. Should you intend to send a guest team, kindly indicate this in our pre-registration form. The final decision regarding the participation of guest teams will be made once sufficient registration statistics have been gathered.

5. Registration Fee and other Financial Arrangements

Registration Fee

- *Main team:* The main team is composed of up to five students and a maximum of two team leaders. The total registration fee for the main team is 1200 Euro. If the main team only has three students or fewer, only one mentor is permitted to register as a team leader. The registration fee in this case will be 250 Euro per person (including the team leader).
- *Observers:* Each observer needs to pay a registration fee of 1600 Euro.
- *Visitors:* Each visitor needs to pay a registration fee of 2000 Euro. Should there be children under the age of 12 accompanying their parents, please contact the Organizing Committee directly.
- *Guest Team Participants/Leaders:* The guest team may comprise up to five students and at least one team leader. A registration fee of 1600 Euro is required for each member of the guest team.

Exemptions and Waivers

- Countries that have hosted the IOAA in the previous decade (2016-2025) are exempt from the main team registration fee.
- Countries participating in the IOAA for the first time are eligible to apply for a fee waiver. The Organizing Committee will evaluate all submissions and grant waivers to selected teams at its discretion.

Other Financial Arrangements

- International travel expenses shall be borne by participating delegations.
- The Organizing Committee will provide local hospitality including accommodation, official transportation, ceremonial events, and access to academic and cultural programs. Local hospitality provisions will commence on the afternoon of **25 September 2026** and conclude at noon on **05 October 2026**.

6. Pre-registration

Countries with participation history in IOAA 2023, IOAA 2024, and IOAA 2025 will receive separate emails containing the necessary login credentials to complete the pre-registration process. All other countries intending to pre-register for IOAA 2026 should contact the Organizing Committee at ioaa2026@hanoiedu.vn.

7. Visa Support

Official invitation letters will be issued to facilitate visa procedures for participants requiring entry visas to Vietnam.

8. Website and Communications

- Official Website: <https://www.ioaa2026.vn>
- Official Email: ioaa2026@hanoiedu.vn
- For visa support, please contact: ioaa2026@phenikaa-uni.edu.vn

9. Academic Committee

The Academic Committee of IOAA 2026 is being formally established in accordance with IOAA statutes. Details and timelines will be provided in **Circular No. 2**.

10. Further Information

Detailed registration procedures, technical guidelines, and other operational information will be announced in the next circular and updated on the official website.

With highest regards,

IOAA 2026 Organizing Committee