



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

for projects relating to Task Force 1: Astronomy for Universities and Research to be implemented in the 2013 Calendar Year

1. Introduction

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) established the global Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD) in order to fulfil the IAU's 10 year strategic plan (http://iau.org/static/education/strategicplan_091001.pdf). This plan aims to realise the global developmental benefits of astronomy. The OAD is tasked with establishing and strategically coordinating Regional Nodes (ROADs) and Language Expertise Centres (LOADs) across the world as well as three Task Forces (TFs), namely:

- i. Astronomy for Universities and Research (TF1)
- ii. Astronomy for Children and Schools (TF2)
- iii. Astronomy for the Public (TF3)

The bulk of the implementation of projects is to be carried out by volunteers, coordinated by the Task Forces with the support of the OAD. The OAD will also source the necessary funding beyond IAU allocations.

Task Force 1 (Universities and Research) was established in May 2012 and is now calling for projects relevant to this area of astronomy for development. More information about the OAD and its activities can be found at www.astro4dev.org.

2. Call for Proposals

The IAU has earmarked a minimum of €80 000 to support projects and activities related to all three Task Forces. Task Force 1, through the OAD, now issues this open call for proposals to access this funding. Proposals which are not funded through this process but which are ranked by the Task Force to be significantly important will go onto a "wish list" for which the OAD will continue fundraising efforts.

In general proposals should seek to align with the IAU's 10 year strategic plan, but with specific focus on Universities and Research. Some examples of possible activities are given here (note that one of the IAU's flagship programmes, the International School for Young Astronomers, is not included since it has its own separate budget).

- i. Visiting astronomer programmes or exchange programmes
- ii. National or regional astronomy schools and workshops: typically 4-5 day duration
- iii. Astronomy education research equipment and laboratory small grant programme (e.g. computers, laboratory equipment, small teaching telescopes, CCDs, software, spectrographs etc.)

- iv. Sabbatical leave visit programme - travel funds for astronomers to spend their sabbatical in a developing country university (or institute) to provide educational and technical advice
- v. Grants for the development and implementation of undergraduate astronomy courses and laboratories in developing countries. (e.g. using distance learning methods, Virtual Observatory and robotic telescopes resources as well as open source text books for astronomy)
- vi. Technology internships e.g. instrument specialists to visit universities in developing countries
- vii. University twinning programmes - develop long term (at least 2 years) links and cooperative programmes between institutes and universities with those in developing host countries
- viii. Innovative university astronomy education and research programs not listed above (e.g. support or enhance the development of innovative teaching, laboratory and undergraduate research programmes in developing countries). Fresh ideas for high impact programmes are most welcome.

All proposals should be submitted via the Application Form which can be downloaded from the OAD website (<http://www.astro4dev.org/index.php/cfp/tf1cfp>)

3. Funding Conditions

- i. A minimum of €80 000 has been allocated to all three Task Forces and will be distributed depending on the quality of the proposals
- ii. Only completed application forms will be considered
- iii. Projects will only be funded for the 2013 calendar year. For multi-annual projects only the budget for the first (or next) year will be approved. As a consequence, multi-annual projects should have a sustainable deliverable at the end of the first year (to overcome an interruption of the funding).

4. Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be considered in the selection of projects.

- i. Alignment with the goals of IAU's 10 year strategic plan
- ii. Quality and relevance of content.
- iii. Innovativeness and creativity of approach.
- iv. Clear timeline indicators.
- v. Cost effectiveness of the project including a detailed budget.
- vi. Potential to raise additional funds and/or leverage long term support from sources other than the IAU.
- vii. Range of stakeholder participation (e.g. partnerships with universities / industry / government)
- viii. Degree of impact of the project with potential for sustainability and broader reach (including usefulness to or overlap with other groups of stakeholders, e.g. other Task Forces)

5. Proposal Evaluation

The proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by the members of the Task Force and recommendations submitted to the IAU Development Oversight Committee. Allocations will be made based on the TF recommendations.

6. Proposal Requirements

All proposals must be submitted in completed application forms and sent by email to proposals@astro4dev.org. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the proposal has been received in order by the OAD. All proposals received will be acknowledged by email.

7. Closing Date

The deadline for submitting proposals is **23:59 UTC on Monday, 15th October 2012**. All applicants will receive feedback during December 2012 for projects to be implemented in the 2013 calendar year.

8. Enquiries:

Please direct enquiries to Kevin Govender (Director OAD), preferably by email at kg@astro4dev.org. Alternative contact information:
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