



IAU Office of Astronomy for Development Annual Call for Proposals 2019: Stage 1

If you need support for accessibility, please write to us at projects@astro4dev.org.

Although the OAD is a global office, English is the official working language of the OAD. We request that all applications be submitted in English. The OAD can provide translation assistance through its Language Centers and its global network of volunteers. If you need assistance with translations, please contact us at projects@astro4dev.org at least 2 weeks before the application deadline.

Kindly read through all the information presented here before proceeding to the application form.

INTRODUCTION

The global Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD) is a joint partnership between the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and the South African National Research Foundation (NRF) with the support of the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The mission of the OAD is to further the use of astronomy, in all its aspects, as a tool for development.

One of the primary ways the OAD implements its mission is through the **Annual Call for Proposals**. Every year, the OAD invites proposals for projects that use astronomy as a tool to address an issue related to sustainable development. The call is open to anyone from anywhere in the world.

Since 2017, the OAD Call for Proposals is a two-stage process, where only a limited number of proposals from Stage 1 will be invited to submit a Stage 2 proposal.

ASTRONOMY FOR DEVELOPMENT

At the OAD, we aim to encourage people to work towards development through the astronomy-based interventions executed as IAU-OAD funded projects. Our development goals are framed by the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), which are a set of globally adopted priorities to end poverty, preserve the planet and promote peace and prosperity for all. See additional information on the SDGs below this call text, including some examples of how astronomy could influence those goals.

FLAGSHIP THEMES

A change from the previous call is the introduction of Flagship themes. From the experience of funding 140 projects (and reviewing about 1000 proposals) since 2013, and with input from 10 regional offices around the world, the OAD has identified **Flagship (or Signature) projects** that encapsulate the idea of astronomy for development, and which have the potential for global roll-out. Flagships are seen as an effective means for achieving significant impact of astronomy for development over a substantial part of the world.

Two Flagship themes for this call are:

1. Sustainable, local socio-economic development through Astronomy

This Flagship aims to use an astronomical facility, such as an observatory or planetarium, as a “hub” within a small town or village to stimulate various associated socio-economic benefits for the local community. Benefits could include job creation through astronomy-related tourism; community skills development; educational programmes; stimulation of local innovation; alternative activities for youth in order to keep away from negative/harmful activities; and infrastructure development. The establishment of such a facility in close collaboration with relevant government, industry, academic and development partners, including local and traditional leadership, will ensure the sustainability of the initiative.

[More information](#)

2. Science diplomacy through Astronomy: Celebrating our Common Humanity

Astronomy brings us a perspective of the beauty and scale of the universe. Most famously, Carl Sagan used this perspective to try to positively influence how people interact with their fellow human beings, and our planet, through his description of the earth as a “pale blue dot”. This project aims to take the inspiring potential of astronomy and use it to stimulate a sense of tolerance and common humanity in all parts of the world.

[More information](#)

It is not a requirement that your project aligns with these flagship themes. However, should you choose to submit a project related to one of the Flagship themes above, then your project should be designed in such a way that it can serve as local pathfinder (or “pilot”) for the flagship. The OAD will therefore provide additional assistance and guidance in developing such a project, and importantly, help to identify relevant partners for implementation of the project. A good pilot project would be one proposed by a consortium of partners who will work together to demonstrate the principles of the flagship. For more information and queries on the flagships, please contact us at projects@astro4dev.org.

BEFORE YOU APPLY

Before you apply, please visit the “[Getting Started](#)” section that provides the background on Astronomy for Development, resources and links to assist you with project design, monitoring, evidence and evaluation etc. You can take the free [online course on Astronomy for Development](#) designed to provide a helping hand to anyone who intends to submit a proposal.

You can also search through the past projects funded by the OAD to learn about the work done around the world, to check if your idea has been tried by anyone before, find possible partners for your project, and to find resources developed by other projects which could potentially be used for your project.

- [Search projects by keyword and location](#)
- [List of projects \(A-Z\)](#)
- [Search resources produced by past projects](#)

APPLICATION

Two Stage Application:

The Call for Proposals is divided into two stages of application. The first stage is open to everyone while only selected proposals from Stage 1 will be invited to Stage 2. Detailed information is provided below for the Stage 1 process; more information for Stage 2 will be provided at the end of Stage 1.

Stage 1 Proposals:

The Stage 1 proposal is open to proposers from anywhere in the world. Projects can be proposed by a single person or by a team of people (teams are encouraged). Proposers submit a brief, online application with the key aspects of their project and/or idea. Proposals will be scored by the OAD review panel based on a set of defined criteria (see below).

Around 30 proposals will be selected from the Stage 1 applications and invited to submit a Stage 2 proposal. In addition, each of the ten IAU Regional and Language Offices will nominate any one proposal from their region to be invited to Stage 2. All proposals will receive feedback from the reviewers.

Stage 2 Proposals:

Selected proposals will be invited to submit a more comprehensive Stage 2 application, incorporating the feedback received in Stage 1. Once the Stage 2 applications are submitted, the OAD and the Regional Offices will engage with the proposers through this period to help refine the project.

The Regional Offices will be able to suggest ways of improving a proposal to be locally relevant, thus ensuring support from possible local collaborators who could strengthen the project. The OAD, alongside the Regional Offices, will check whether the projects are truly innovative (checking [previously funded OAD projects](#) and other initiatives addressing similar concerns) and/or whether the project idea is supported by current evidence. The OAD and Regional Offices may recommend potential collaborators or partners who could be added to the project. External experts, consulted by the OAD where necessary, would provide useful additional guidance on the assessment of projects, including a perspective on which projects are most likely to make an impact on development.

Based on the discussions with OAD and the Regional Offices, proposers modify their Stage 2 applications and submit them by the final deadline. An independent review panel then scores these modified Stage 2 proposals and makes the final recommendations on the projects to be funded and the funding amounts for each project. Upon approval by the OAD Steering Committee, all applicants are notified of the results.

Grant Amount:

The IAU earmarks a total amount of approximately **€110,000 per year** for this call for project proposals.

SELECTION

Eligibility Criteria:

Please verify that you agree to/abide by the following before beginning your application. [Contact us](#) in case of queries.

- The proposed project should address a problem or challenge related to development and the project should use **Astronomy as a tool to address this problem.**

- One or more project deliverables should be ready by the end of the implementation year (2020); proposals are welcome for projects that run over several years, although funds will only be released annually according to the proposed budget per year and subject to a review of progress.
- All distributable project resources, materials, etc. should be released to the public under an appropriate license (e.g. [Creative Commons](#)) allowing free use and adaptation.
- Proposers should be able to provide a verified bank account through which funds can be paid if the project is selected for funding.
- All projects should adhere to the [Principle of Universality of Science](#) as defined by ISC (previously ICSU).
- All project team members listed in the proposal should have discussed the proposal and committed to executing the project. The project team should be prepared to provide verification of qualifications and/or reference letters if requested by the OAD.
- The proposers should obtain all necessary permissions and authorizations, as required by their national laws, to carry out their work, such as written parental consent when working with minors, permission to use copyrighted material etc.
- The project team should support the detailed evaluation of the impact of their project by the OAD (if such an evaluation is feasible and if the project is selected for evaluation)
- Proposals should ideally be submitted via the online Application Form. All proposals received will be acknowledged by email. Contact us if you do not receive an email confirmation of your application. If you are unable to submit the proposal online for any reason, you may [contact us](#) at least a week before the deadline to arrange for an alternative submission method. This includes anyone with visual or other impairments who may require assistance.
- If you require assistance in translating your application, please contact us immediately and at least 2 weeks before the deadline so we may make suitable arrangements
- Application forms should be complete and received at the OAD before the deadline.

Selection Criteria:

Selection Criterion	Corresponding information required from proposer in the application form	Scoring
1. Level of need for proposed activities in the region/project location/target audience	5. Which countries will your project target? 6. In which languages will your project be delivered and/or written? 7. Choose the primary target audience for your project 9. Project summary	How relevant is this challenge or problem in terms of needs in the target location? (1-10)

	<p>10 a. Describe the developmental challenge you aim to address in this project.</p> <p>13. Why should we fund your project?</p>	
2. Relevance to Astronomy for Development and/or Flagship themes	<p>8 c. Will your proposal be a pilot project for the below OAD Flagship Theme(s)?</p> <p>9. Project summary</p> <p>10 b. To which of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will your project respond ?</p> <p>10 c. How will you achieve these goals using Astronomy ?</p>	Does the proposal fit the OAD Flagship Themes and/or Is the project relevant to the OAD call? (1-10)
3. Innovation and creativity, improving on what has been shown to work	<p>8 a. Have you or any of your team members submitted this same idea in previous years? If Yes, what was the title of that proposal?</p> <p>8 b. Are you building upon previous work, done either by you or others ? If Yes, please provide more details or a link to the project.</p> <p>13. Why should we fund your project?</p>	<p>Has this project come up with some interesting new ideas or built upon existing ideas in a constructive way?</p> <p>Has it improved upon any previous proposal? (1-10)</p>
4. Project effectiveness	<p>9. Project summary</p> <p>11. What are the intended Deliverables of the project?</p> <p>12. Budget</p> <p>13. Why should we fund your project?</p>	Does the proposed solution respond to the stated challenge? Are the budget and deliverables reasonable and match the need in the region? (1-10)

TIMELINE

The timeline below will be followed for the 2019 call:

Stage 1	
April 23	Open call for proposals issued
May 20	Deadline for Stage 1 applications

May 20 – July 07	Proposals scored by reviewers with input from OAD Regional Offices
July 15	Announcement of Stage 1 results. All proposers notified
Stage 2	
July 15	Selected proposals invited for Stage 2
July 15 - August 30	OAD and Regional Offices work with proposers to review/revise proposal, in consultation with external experts where relevant.
September 02	Last date for any consultation with the OAD and Regional Offices
September 15	Deadline for Stage 2 applications
September - October	Review of proposals
October 31	Review panel recommendations submitted to the OAD Steering Committee
~November 15	Funding recommendations of reviewers approved by OAD Steering Committee
November 30	Results announced
December 15	Grant agreements sent to successful projects
January - February 2020	Funds transferred to projects
July 2020	Mid year reports due
December 2020	Final reports due

Apply Online

Deadline for Stage 1 application is end of day, May 20, 2019

As long as it is May 20 somewhere in the world, applications will be accepted

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SDGS:

The following is a list of the 17 SDGs (successors to the Millennium Development Goals) adopted by the United Nations in 2015. Please also look through the SDG indicators that links the goals to concrete outcomes <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

1. **Poverty**– End poverty in all its forms everywhere

2. **Hunger**– End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
3. **Health**– Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
4. **Education**– Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. **Women**– Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. **Water**– Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. **Energy**– Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. **Employment & Economic Growth**– Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
9. **Infrastructure & Innovation**– Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation
10. **Inequality**– Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. **Urban Safety & Welfare**– Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. **Production & Consumption**– Ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns
13. **Climate Change**– Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14. **Marine Conservation**– Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. **Environment preservation**– Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss
16. **Peace, security, equality**– Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. **Implementation**– Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

It can be difficult to conceptualise how astronomy, a seemingly esoteric and specialised science, can contribute to the above immediate and real challenges facing society today, but there are many ways in which it can. Some examples are:

- Using astronomy to support a sense of common humanity to contribute to goals 16 (Peace, Security) and 10 (Inequality)
- Leveraging the attraction of astronomy in order to support the economy, such as in astro tourism, to contribute to goal 8 (Employment, Economic growth)
- Projects that build science/technology skills and human capital to further goals 8 (Employment) and 9 (Infrastructure & Innovation), as well as 17 (Implementation)

The diagram below gives examples of ways in which past projects have tried to influence the SDGs. More in this [blog post](#).



Figure 1: A mapping of previous OAD projects to the Sustainable Development Goals

Although English is the working language of the OAD, we will be happy to arrange translations of the call and documents if you need it. Please contact us at projects@astro4dev.org if you would like to request a translation.

Même si l'anglais est la langue utilisée au bureau d'astronomie pour le développement (OAD), nous mettons volontiers à disposition des traductions des documents d'appel d'offre si vous en avez besoin. Veuillez prendre contact avec projects@astro4dev.org si vous avez besoin d'une traduction.

Aunque la OAD trabaja mayoritariamente en inglés, nos ofrecemos a organizar traducciones para la convocatoria de propuestas y documentos relacionados. Para solicitar una traducción, por favor póngase en contacto con projects@astro4dev.org.

Несмотря на то, что рабочим языком для OAD является английский, мы готовы организовать перевод документов, если Вы нуждаетесь в этом. Пожалуйста, свяжитесь с projects@astro4dev.org, если Вам необходим перевод документов

虽然英语是OAD的工作语言，但是如果您需要翻译成所需语言的文件，我们将很高兴为您提供翻译服务。如果需要翻译，请用电子邮件与何金华联系 (projects@astro4dev.org)。

سعداء سنكون أننا إلا OAD، في العمل لغة هي الإنجليزية اللغة أن من الرغم على إليها حاجة في كنت إذا والوثائق الدعوة بترجمة بالقيام ترجمة طلب في ترغب كنت إذا projects@astro4dev.org غوفيندر كيفين ب الاتصال يرجى

Embora Inglês seja a língua oficial do OAD, traduções para Português do formulário e das regras podem ser requisitadas. através do email projects@astro4dev.org