

Kia ora,

The International Olympiad of Astronomy and Astrophysics is a competition bringing together young astronomy enthusiasts from around the globe. In 2024 NZ sent a team to the competition for the first time since 2013. They performed admirably, with team member Jiahong Yu achieving an honorable mention, and most importantly had a lot of fun! Building on this success, we invite you and your students to participate in the New Zealand Olympiad of Astronomy and Astrophysics Challenge Exam in 2025, leading toward sending a team to the IOAA competition in 2026.

When: Wednesday October 15th, 2025, at a time convenient to your school. The exam is one hour long.

Where: The exam will be sat in person, under a teacher's supervision.

Who: The exam will be suited to students taking any of: Earth and Space Sciences, Physics, Mathematics (NCEA or international equivalent), or students with a strong astronomy interest. See also eligibility criteria below.

Why: Based on results from this exam, a number of students will be selected to continue training toward the IOAA competition, including attending one to two camps. A final team of around four students will be selected to travel to the IOAA competition in 2026 (location and dates TBC).

What: Questions will be a mix of multiple choice, short and longer answers. The questions will be a mix of astronomy/astrophysics knowledge, calculations and problem solving. We attach the front page of the exam and the formula sheets that will be provided for more information.

We ask that one teacher at the school registers the school's interest using [this form](https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/EYjAD13FkQ) (<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/EYjAD13FkQ>), including an indicative (non-binding) number of students who might sit the exam. On the morning of the exam, we will email those who register a copy of the exam to be printed out and given to students, and we will ask you to scan and return the exams via email.

Based on the eligibility criteria for the IOAA, we have established these criteria for the NZOAA. We ask you to check these with the students planning to sit the exam:

- Participants must be under 20 years old on 1 July of the Olympiad year (2026);
- they must not have completed secondary school before 1 January of that year, and
- they must be citizens or regular residents of New Zealand.

Here is a short blurb that you might like to use to advertise the competition to your students, substituting in the appropriate teacher's name at your school:

NZOAA - Calling for Young Astronomers!

The **New Zealand Olympiad in Astronomy and Astrophysics (NZOAA)** exam will be held on **Wednesday October 15th, 2025**. This is a great opportunity for students passionate about astronomy, physics, and problem-solving to challenge themselves and win the opportunity to represent New Zealand internationally. For more information, please visit nzoaa.com. Register your interest with (INSERT TEACHER'S NAME HERE) to participate.

For any further information, please contact secretary@rasnz.org.nz or see the [IOAA](#) and/or [NZOAA](#) websites. We look forward to receiving your registrations!

Ngā mihi nui,

The NZOAA Committee

Yvette Perrott
Alston Yam
Penglong Zhou
Haritina Mogoshanu
Antony Gomez
Jenny Pollock
Clare Worley
Bruce Ngataierua