



## **Call for AstroCamp 2026 Course Proposals**

AstroCamp is a 3-year academic excellence program in the field of astronomy and physics organized by CAUP and the Paredes de Coura Municipality for secondary school students from 45 eligible countries<sup>1</sup>, selected according to their motivation and academic merit. It provides participants with high-level and inspiring scientific training, as well as mentorship and networking opportunities. It includes a summer school, held in a secluded and tranquil setting away from the stresses of urban centers, whose 15<sup>th</sup> edition will be from 30 July to 13 August 2026.

Those potentially interested in teaching one of the courses at this year's school are invited to submit a proposal by e-mail to the program's scientific director by **April 19**.

Lecturers are not paid but their expenses at the camp and travel in Portugal are covered, subject to constraints of Portuguese funding rules; in most cases travel to/from Portugal can also be covered. Lecturers must have a PhD in astronomy, physics or a related area and be currently active in research, and must stay in the camp in its second half – from Wednesday 5 to Wednesday 12 (or late on Tuesday 11)<sup>2</sup>.

A course must consist of 21 hours of classes (14 lectures of 90 minutes) and 4 hours of written exams (spread over 3 days, and graded according to the Portuguese university system). Other restrictions apply, e.g. students have no internet/computer/mobile phone access. Proposals must describe the goals and topics of the course, including a bullet-point list of the scientific contents of each of the lectures, and the format and structure of the written exams. The proposal should be sent as a pdf file, with a maximum size of 6 pages. A separate pdf should have the lecturers's CV (max. 4 pages).

Note that at this stage there is no commitment on either side. After scientific and pedagogical evaluation of the proposals, a course shortlist will be sent to the shortlisted school candidates in mid-May, and they can rank courses by doubly-blind voting. The final choice of the lecturers, considering student preferences and other factors, will be taken by the program director at the end of May (and the detailed course contents will be agreed at that point).

For further information see <https://astrocamp.astro.up.pt/en/index.html>

Informal queries or course proposals should be sent to [Carlos.Martins@astro.up.pt](mailto:Carlos.Martins@astro.up.pt)

<sup>1</sup> *In the 2026 edition we accept applications from students in the antepenultimate year of secondary education (i.e. usually 15-16 year-olds) who are cumulatively nationals of and living/studying in Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America or Uruguay.*

<sup>2</sup> *Optionally, the lecturers can join an expedition to Spain on 12-13 August, where we'll carry out a modern version of the Eddington experiment during that day's total solar eclipse.*