

## **Guidelines for the academic interview**

1) The **academic interview** can be **held in public or behind closed doors**. The choice is up to each applicant. He/she will be asked to make a decision, once the application period is over.

2) **Each academic interview will be recorded**, previous consent by the applicant. He/ she will have to give an oral consent (at the beginning of the recording) as well as a written one (the form will have to be signed and turned in to the postgraduate office of each entity prior to the start of the interview).

Each jury member has to give the same oral and written consent. (Individual forms will be given to each applicant and member of the jury).

*Recordings will remain in the postgraduate offices of each academic entity for safekeeping. They will not be made available to the general public.*

3) **The interview will be divided into 2 parts:**

- **Presentation and defense of applicant's research topic**
- **Knowledge of general Astronomy**

3.1) **Presentation and defense of the applicant's research topic**

This part focuses on the applicant's presentation of his/her research topic and questions the jury may ask about the topic.

The applicant must give an ample introduction on the research topic and include up to date material on the topic.

The jury will evaluate the following points, all equally important:

- Quality of the oral presentation.
- Research capability and synthesis of literature related to the presentation.
- Understanding of the research topic and ability to defend it.
- Organization and articulation of concepts and ideas.
- Reasoning and argumentation capabilities.
- Ability and creativity to approach scientific problems.

The jury will ask questions that are specific to the topic presented and related to the area of astrophysics the topic belongs to.

### 3.2) **General Astronomy**

This part of the interview focuses on the jury's questions about general Astronomy.

The LEVEL of the questions on general Astronomy will be SIMILAR to the level of the contents of the following books:

- "An Introduction to Modern Astrophysics" by Bradley W. Carroll
- "Fundamental Astronomy" by Hannu Karttunen and Pekka Kröger

NOTE: This part of the interview is NOT an exam of the above mentioned books.

For an average student it should take one month to prepare for this part of the interview.

**4) The jury will assign a grade, in a joint manner, and provide at least one comment for each part of the academic interview, giving the following weight:**

- 2/3 for the section on the presentation of the research topic and the answers the applicant gives to the questions he/she is asked about the topic.
- 1/3 for the section on general Astronomy and the applicant's answers to the questions asked by the jury.

After the academic interview and upon request, the jury will have access to the applicant's academic history (CV and curricular file).

**5) The academic committee will decide the admission of each applicant based on:**

- The result of the academic interview,
- the academic history,
- the letters of recommendation and
- the applicant's written essay about his/her reasons for applying to the PhD program.