

## IMPORTANT LINKS

NOAO Gemini Science Center

[www.noao.edu/usgp](http://www.noao.edu/usgp)

NOAO Observing Proposal Form

[www.noao.edu/noaoprop/noaoprop.html](http://www.noao.edu/noaoprop/noaoprop.html)

NGSC Support for Gemini Users

[www.noao.edu/usgp/noaosupport.html](http://www.noao.edu/usgp/noaosupport.html)

Applying for US Time on Gemini

[www.noao.edu/gateway/gemini/](http://www.noao.edu/gateway/gemini/)

Gemini HelpDesk

[www.gemini.edu/sciops/helpdesk/helpdeskIndex.html](http://www.gemini.edu/sciops/helpdesk/helpdeskIndex.html)

Gemini Phase I Tool (PIT)

[www.gemini.edu/sciops/P1help/p1Index.html](http://www.gemini.edu/sciops/P1help/p1Index.html)

NOAO Guidelines for Using Gemini's Phase I Tool

[www.noao.edu/noaoprop/help/pit.html](http://www.noao.edu/noaoprop/help/pit.html)

Phase II Overview

<http://www.gemini.edu/sciops/ObsProcess/ObsProcPh2Index.html>

Phase II Gemini Observing Tool

[www.gemini.edu/sciops/OThelp/otIndex.html](http://www.gemini.edu/sciops/OThelp/otIndex.html)

Instructions for Completing Phase II

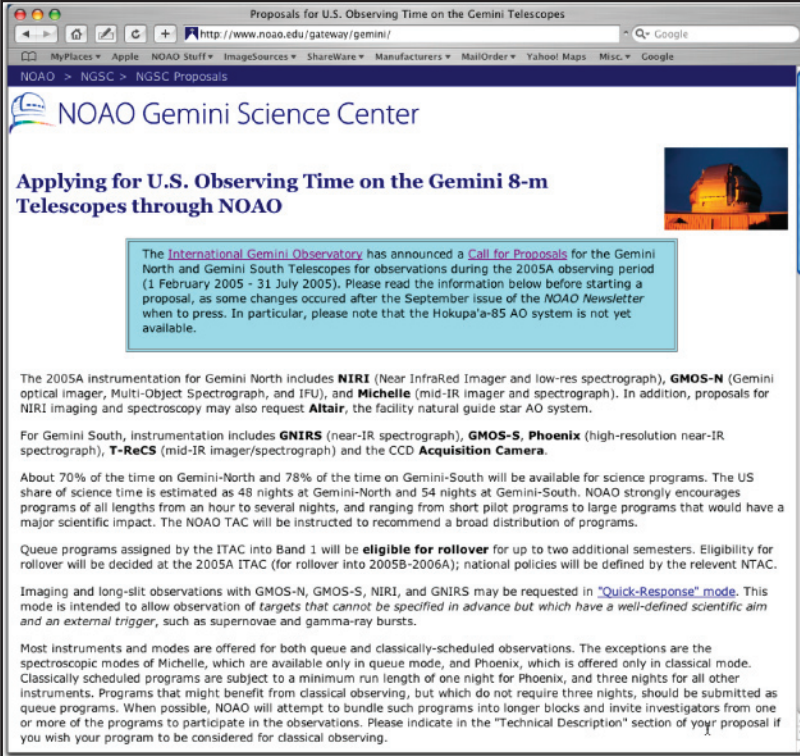
[www.gemini.edu/sciops/OThelp/otSpecialInstructions.html](http://www.gemini.edu/sciops/OThelp/otSpecialInstructions.html)

Phase II Contact Scientists and Support Staff (for 2007B)

<http://www.gemini.edu/sciops/schedules/obsStatus/ODBConfigGN07B.html>

<http://www.gemini.edu/sciops/schedules/obsStatus/ODBConfigGS07B.html>

# HOW TO PROPOSE FOR U.S. TIME ON GEMINI



Proposals for U.S. Observing Time on the Gemini Telescopes

NOAO > NGSC > NGSC Proposals

## NOAO Gemini Science Center

### Applying for U.S. Observing Time on the Gemini 8-m Telescopes through NOAO

The [International Gemini Observatory](#) has announced a [Call for Proposals](#) for the Gemini North and Gemini South Telescopes for observations during the 2005A observing period (1 February 2005 - 31 July 2005). Please read the information below before starting a proposal, as some changes occurred after the September issue of the [NOAO Newsletter](#) when to press. In particular, please note that the Hokupa'a-85 AO system is not yet available.

The 2005A instrumentation for Gemini North includes **NIRI** (Near InfraRed Imager and low-res spectrograph), **GMOS-N** (Gemini optical imager, Multi-Object Spectrograph, and IFU), and **Michelle** (mid-IR imager and spectrograph). In addition, proposals for NIRI imaging and spectroscopy may also request **Altair**, the facility natural guide star AO system.

For Gemini South, instrumentation includes **GNIRS** (near-IR spectrograph), **GMOS-S**, **Phoenix** (high-resolution near-IR spectrograph), **T-ReCS** (mid-IR imager/spectrograph) and the CCD **Acquisition Camera**.

About 70% of the time on Gemini-North and 78% of the time on Gemini-South will be available for science programs. The US share of science time is estimated as 48 nights at Gemini-North and 54 nights at Gemini-South. NOAO strongly encourages programs of all lengths from an hour to several nights, and ranging from short pilot programs to large programs that would have a major scientific impact. The NOAO TAC will be instructed to recommend a broad distribution of programs.

Queue programs assigned by the ITAC into Band 1 will be **eligible for rollover** for up to two additional semesters. Eligibility for rollover will be decided at the 2005A ITAC (for rollover into 2005B-2006A); national policies will be defined by the relevant NTAC.

Imaging and long-slit observations with GMOS-N, GMOS-S, NIRI, and GNIRS may be requested in **"Quick-Response" mode**. This mode is intended to allow observation of *targets that cannot be specified in advance but which have a well-defined scientific aim and an external trigger*, such as supernovae and gamma-ray bursts.

Most instruments and modes are offered for both queue and classically-scheduled observations. The exceptions are the spectroscopic modes of Michelle, which are available only in queue mode, and Phoenix, which is offered only in classical mode. Classically scheduled programs are subject to a minimum run length of one night for Phoenix, and three nights for all other instruments. Programs that might benefit from classical observing, but which do not require three nights, should be submitted as queue programs. When possible, NOAO will attempt to bundle such programs into longer blocks and invite investigators from one or more of the programs to participate in the observations. Please indicate in the "Technical Description" section of your proposal if you wish your program to be considered for classical observing.

<http://www.noao.edu/gateway/gemini/>



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## Phase I: Proposing for Observing Time

The NOAO Gemini Science Center provides assistance to investigators preparing proposals for U.S. time, either queue or classical, on the Gemini telescopes, including technical review checking before proposal submission. Investigators may submit proposals through the standard NOAO proposal process or alternatively using the Gemini Phase I Tool.

- *Deadlines—30 September for Semester A and 31 March for Semester B*
- *Submitting application to NOAO using the NOAO Observing Proposal Form*

Procedures and forms for applying for telescope time via the standard NOAO proposal process are available on the NOAO Web site.

- *Submitting application to NOAO using the Gemini Phase I Tool (PIT)*

Investigators who are applying only for time on the Gemini telescopes may submit their proposals using the PIT. Detailed information about the PIT is available on the Gemini Web site, and NOAO guidelines for using the PIT are available on the NOAO Web site. **All proposals submitted as part of a Gemini multi-partner project must use the PIT.**

### **Please make sure that your proposals meet these requirements:**

- **Poorest Acceptable Conditions must be defined**  
Phase I queue proposals require the specification of observing condition constraints that define the poorest acceptable conditions under which the observations can be executed.
- **WFS Guide Stars must be identified**  
All proposals for queue and classical observations must identify wavefront sensor (WFS) stars, because they are used for fast guiding, primary mirror active optics control and/or adaptive optics.

## Phase II: Preparing Observing Run Program Specifications

Investigators whose proposals are awarded time must prepare a Phase II submission. The PI completes the Phase II and then works iteratively with the assigned NGSC contact scientist to ensure that the observing details are complete and correct.

- *Deadlines — advertised each semester on a Gemini “special instructions” page*
- *Retrieving the Phase II skeleton and completing the detailed Observing Tool (OT) definition*

Gemini constructs a skeletal description of each observation, which the investigator then “fleshes out” to detail the observations. Gemini and/or NGSC sends instructions to the investigator on how to retrieve the skeleton when it is ready. The investigator completes the detailed OT definition off-line and then returns the Phase II to the NGSC contact scientist (CS).

- *Working with the NGSC contact scientist as necessary*

The NGSC contact scientist reviews the Phase II to ensure completeness and correctness of the detailed observations; this is an iterative process with the investigator. The NGSC contact scientist then sends the completed observation details to the Gemini contact scientist.

The Gemini Contact Scientist carries out a final verification of the program, and then copies the observations into the Active Observing Database. The program is now active and observations are available to be executed.

*PLEASE NOTE: The earlier the proposal is available for execution, the higher the probability that it will be executed. It behooves one to submit the Phase II as soon as possible, no later than or before the posted deadline.*