

Semester 2009A Call For Proposals

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Gemini Observatory invites its community to propose scientific investigations for the 2009A semester, 1 February 2009 - 31 July 2009. The Call is open to all partners.

The submission deadline is **TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 30TH 2008 for all partners**. Applications should be submitted via your national Gemini proposal process. Submission times and other details vary by partner; please consult your [National Gemini Office pages](#) for more information. Joint proposals must adhere to the deadline (and other requirements) applicable to the partner country of the institution to which the Principal Investigator is affiliated.

The purpose of this page is to highlight the most relevant information for the 2009A call. Significant additional information is contained on supporting pages; users are encouraged to follow the links for more detailed information. If hardcopy is preferred, the primary pages are available in a single [15 page pdf document](#).

Highlights for 2009A

General

Relevant milestones for 2009A can be found in the [2009A schedule](#). The deadline for Phase I submission is **September 30th 2008** ([Poor weather](#) and [Director's Discretionary Time](#) proposals are also both accepted at any time via the Phase I Tool), and for successful proposals the Phase II submission deadline is **January 16th 2009**.

The Phase I Tool (PIT) is updated for 2009A; See the [PIT page](#) for downloads and important information. New features include: improved handling of non-sidereal target coordinates, a check that the Band 3 constraints are equal to or worse than the default observing constraints (if band 3 is acceptable), and enabling PhD students to be identified.

[Target accessibility](#) limits will be imposed, so as not to bias the queue at the start or end of the semester. For unrestricted access, targets for Gemini North which do not use the Laser Guide Star system should be limited to **7 < RA < 22, and -30 < dec < +73**, and for Gemini South targets should be limited to **7 < RA < 23, and -87 < dec < +22**. Other regions are available, but only for short observations, or those with very relaxed observing constraints. The Laser Guide System has more [restricted constraints](#). Michelle, T-ReCS and NICI have further [restrictions on availability and Right Ascension](#) in 2009A.

Starting in 2009A, Rapid [Targets of Opportunity](#) can interrupt classical-mode nights, unless the classical observation is time-critical. Time will be reimbursed to the interrupted program during queue time with similar conditions to the interrupted time.

Mask making from non-GMOS images for GMOS [multi-object spectroscopy \(MOS\)](#) observations is available, but GMOS pre-imaging is recommended for MOS programs using slits narrower than 1.0" and for programs requiring very long observations of faint targets.

Gemini North

It is expected that 80% of the semester will be available for science, or 145 nights [distributed across the partnership](#). A list of offered instruments and capabilities is given [below](#).

The Laser Guide System ([LGS](#)) is fully commissioned for NIRI and NIFS. LGS observations must specify "Laser guide star" in the Adaptive Optics resources section in the PIT, and must request Cloud Cover = 50% and Image Quality = 70%. Faint tip tilt stars will also require darker skies: $17.5 < R < 18$ needs SB=80%, $18 < R < 18.5$ needs SB=50%. Because of the limited availability and the need for good weather, only LGS programs ranked in bands 1 and 2 will be recommended by the ITAC. Up to 200 hours will be available in 2009A for LGS queue observations (LGS mode is expected to be available 7-14 nights per month).

Gemini South

Including [NICI campaign science](#), 70% of the semester is expected to be available for science, or 127 nights [distributed across the partnership](#). A list of offered instruments and capabilities is given [below](#). Due to the need to balance the queue, and the traditionally high demand for GMOS-S dark time programs, **bright time programs on Gemini South are particularly encouraged.**

[NICI](#), the AO-fed Near-Infrared Coronagraphic Imager, will be available to the community for the first time in 2009A on a "shared risk" basis. NICI commissioning is on-going at the time of this Call however it is performing well, and the NICI planet search campaign is expected to begin in 2008B. See [below](#) for more details.

Exchange

Up to 5 bright/gray nights of classical time is available with the [HIRES](#) optical spectrograph on Keck. The requested nights must be within the following **windows: 12 - 18 February (up to 2 nights), 10 - 17 March (up to 2 nights) and 8 - 14 July (up to 1 night)**. Requests must be full nights with a minimum of 1 night. Proposals should be submitted via the normal process. All proposers for Keck time must also complete the [Keck cover page](#). Email this page to your [NTAC chair](#). [\[more information\]](#)

4 to 6 classical nights are available on Subaru with [Suprime-Cam](#) (wide field optical imager) and [MOIRCS](#) (near-infrared imager and multi-object spectrograph). The requested nights must be within the following **windows: 24 - 30 March (dark, up to 2 nights), 15 - 21 April (grey, up to 2 nights), 10 - 16 June (bright, up to 2 nights)**. Requests must be full nights with a minimum of 1 night. Proposals should be submitted via the normal process. [\[more information\]](#)

Additional Information

Details of the capabilities available at each telescope are given below. Please see the page of

[supporting information](#) for additional general information.

Gemini North: Facilities

- All instruments are offered in [queue](#) and [classical](#) mode, except for Laser Guide Star AO which is queue mode only.
- Facility instruments:
 - [GMOS North](#) - **0.36-1.10 micron imager and spectrograph**: imaging and long-slit, multi-object and integral field spectroscopy. 5σ one hour point source sensitivities are approximately $R=26$ for imaging and $R=21-23$ for spectroscopy.
 - [NIRI](#) - **1-5 micron imager and low-resolution spectrograph**: imaging and spectroscopy fed with the direct or AO-corrected beam. 5σ one hour point source sensitivities are approximately $K=23$ for imaging and $K=18$ for spectroscopy. NIRI is likely to be unavailable in July 2009.
 - [NIFS](#) - **0.95-2.40 micron integral field unit spectrograph**: IFU spectroscopy fed with the direct or AO-corrected beam. 5σ one hour point source sensitivities are approximately $K=18.7$. NIFS is expected to be available from February 2009 to mid-June 2009.
 - [Altair](#) - **facility AO system**: for use with NIRI (except M band imaging and L & M band spectroscopy) and NIFS.
 - Natural Guide Star AO: Traditional adaptive optics guiding on a nearby star.
 - [Laser Guide Star AO](#): See web page for important performance information and restrictions
 - [Michelle](#) - **7-26 micron spectrograph and imager**: imaging and $R=100-3000$ and echelle spectroscopy; imaging polarimetry is also available. 5σ one hour point source sensitivities are approximately $N=11$ for imaging and $N=6-9$ for spectroscopy. Michelle is expected to be available only between mid-June 2009 and the end of July 2009. [For Semester 2009A Michelle targets should be limited to \$14:00 < RA \text{ hrs} < 24:00\$](#) .
- See the [target accessibility page](#) for important information regarding instrument availability and a plot of accessible RA and Declination. **For Semester 2009A targets should be limited to $7 < RA < 22$, and $-30 < dec < +73$** , the LGS system has a stricter [elevation constraint](#) of >40 degrees.

Gemini South: Facilities

- All instruments are offered in [queue](#) and [classical](#) mode.
- Facility instruments:
 - [GMOS South](#) - **0.36-1.10 micron imager and spectrograph**: imaging and long-slit, multi-object and integral field spectroscopy. 5σ one hour point source

- sensitivities are approximately $R=26$ for imaging and $R=21-23$ for spectroscopy. GMOS South has slightly better sensitivity in the UV and blue than GMOS North.
- **NICI - 1-5 micron dual-channel coronagraphic imager:** In 2009A NICI is offered for limited community use in a shared risk mode, using on-axis AO-fed imaging with or without the coronagraph. Due to ongoing commissioning at the time of this call, only limited sensitivity and other instrument information is available, and is subject to change. Please read the [NICI web pages](#) carefully. Up to 150 hours will be available between February 2009 and April 2009. [NICI targets should be limited to \$6:00 < RA \text{ hrs} < 18:00\$](#) . For 2009A, science targets must be closer than 1 parsec or farther than 200 parsecs away, due to uncertainty in the NICI campaign targets at the time of this Call.
 - **T-ReCS - 8-26 micron imager and spectrograph:** imaging and moderate resolution ($R=100$ and $R=1000$) spectroscopy. 5σ one hour point source sensitivities are approximately $N=11$ for imaging and $N=8$ for spectroscopy. It is expected that T-ReCS will not be available between February 2009 and March 2009. [For Semester 2009A T-ReCS targets should be limited to \$9:00 < RA \text{ hrs} < 2:00\$](#) .
 - Visitor instruments:
 - **Phoenix - 1-5 micron high spectral resolution ($R\sim 50000 - 75000$) spectrometer.** 5σ one hour point source sensitivities are approximately $K=12.5$. It is likely that 2009A will be the last semester that Phoenix will be available on Gemini.
 - See the [target accessibility page](#) for important information regarding instrument availability and a plot of accessible RA and Declination. **For Semester 2009A targets should be limited to $7 < RA < 23$, and $-87 < dec < +22$.**

Questions and Answers

All questions concerning proposals, or any other subject, should be made using the [Gemini HelpDesk](#). This web-based system will send the request to your National Gemini Office staff in the first instance who will then escalate it to Gemini staff if necessary.

Comments and suggestions on the format and content of this page and supporting pages are welcome, and should be sent to [Sandy Leggett](#).

Last Modified: September 2, 2008, sleggett

Semester 2009A Time Distribution

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Gemini North: Time Availability and Distribution

A minimum of 80% of the time will be available for science use on Gemini North in 2009A. This amounts to 145 nights, and includes a Gemini staff allocation. The remaining time will be used for various observatory maintenance tasks and GNIRS commissioning; any unused engineering time will be returned to science. Note that historically around 5% of each semester's science time is used to complete highly ranked programs from the previous two semesters to which the ITAC granted rollover status. The number of hours allocated to each partner in 2009A is given in the following table.

Partner	Estimated Hours Available
US	558
UK	293
Canada	178
Australia	71
Argentina	33
Brazil	20
Univ. of Hawaii (host)	155
Gemini Staff	139
Total	1447 (=145n)

Gemini South: Time Availability and Distribution

A minimum of 70% of the time will be available for science use on Gemini South in 2009A. This amounts to 127 nights, and includes 18 nights of NICI campaign science, and a Gemini staff allocation. The remaining time will be used for various observatory maintenance tasks, and Flamingos-2 and/or MCAO commissioning activities. Any unused engineering time will be returned to science. Note that historically around 5% of each semester's science time is used to complete highly ranked programs from the previous two semesters to which the ITAC granted rollover status. The number of hours allocated to each partner in 2009A is given in the following table.

	Estimated Hours
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Partner	Estimated Hours Available
US	408
UK	217
Canada	130
Australia	52
Argentina	26
Brazil	13
Chile (host)	136
Gemini Staff	105
NICI Campaign	180
Total	1267 (=127n)

Time Adjustments

To maintain overall balance amongst the partnership, the values shown above for both Gemini North and South have been adjusted from the nominal partner shares as a result of actual time charged through 2008A. Time trades between partners are also included. The time allocations shown here were recommended by the Operations Working Group in July 2008. The number of nights is approximated by $\text{int}(\text{hours}/10)$.

Last update 14 August, 2008; Sandy Leggett

Last Modified: September 2, 2008, sleggett

This page provides best estimates, at the time of the Call for Proposals, of instrument availability and target (RA, dec) restrictions for 2009A.

Instrument Changes

As there are more instruments than the number of available ports on each telescope, instrument swaps will be required. Therefore **not all instruments will be available for the entire semester**. However, whenever possible instrument swaps will be scheduled to minimize impact on the queue. In other words, instrument swaps will be driven by demand as much as possible and so the final schedule will not be made until after the 2009A programs are known. Nevertheless, *it may be the case that certain targets or entire programs will not be feasible once the final schedule is determined, at ITAC or thereafter*. If an instrument is requested for less than 6% of the Bands 1+2 time, the Observatory reserves the right to limit the RA range available to programs, or to not schedule the instrument. During classical runs, no instrument changes on the Instrument Support Structure are permitted.

Gemini North Instrument Availability and Target Accessibility

	Accessible	Restricted**	Inaccessible
Declination, non-LGS	-30d to +73d	-37d to -30d, +73d to +79d	< -37d and > +79d
Declination, LGS	-22d to +65d	-27d to -22d, +65d to +68d	< -27d and > +68d
Right Ascension, non-LGS	7h to 22h	22h to 1h, 4h to 7h	1h to 4h
Right Ascension, LGS	8h to 21h	21h to 0h, 5h to 8h	0h to 5h
Michelle, RA	14h to 24h		0h to 14h

** GMOS MOS programs requiring pre-imaging should not have targets in this region. Programs with targets in this region should not require a large amount of time, or have strict timing or observing constraints.

Gemini North: Semester A Visibility

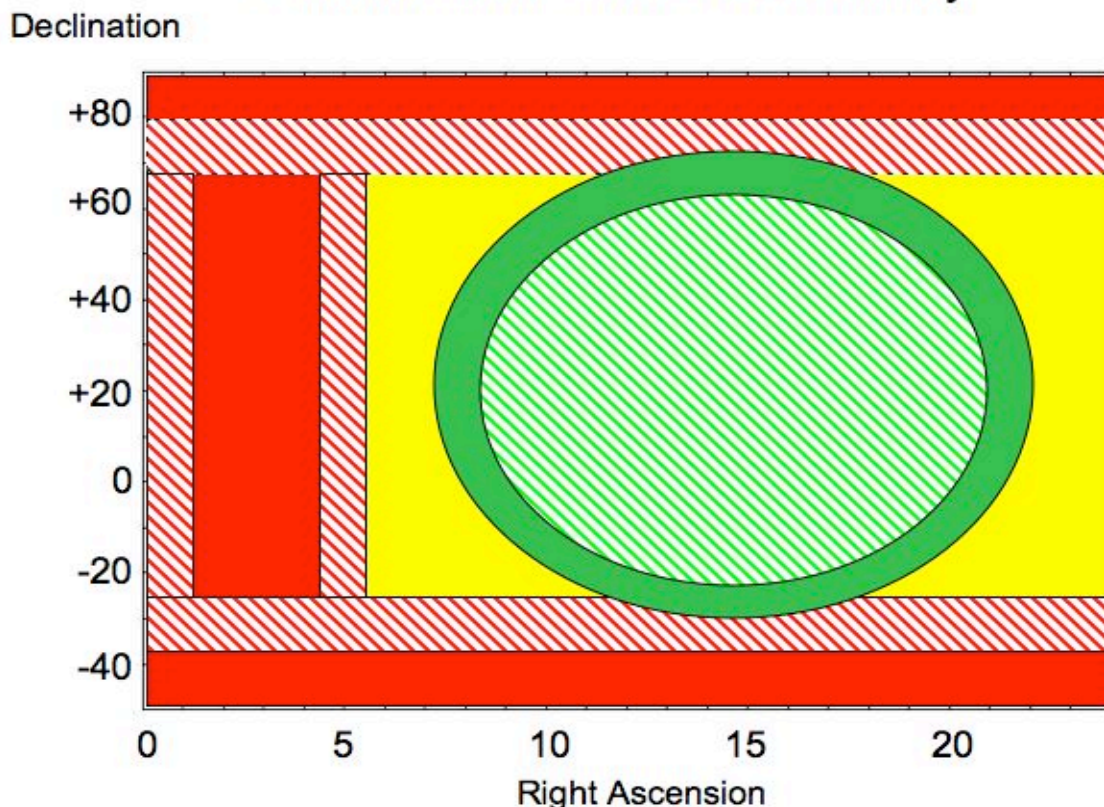


Figure 1: Target accessibility at Gemini North during semester 2009A. Green regions offer unrestricted access, red regions are inaccessible. Hatched areas indicate the more restricted LGS regions. The yellow region is possible, but restricted. See comments and values in the Table above.

At Gemini North, GMOS-N will remain on its side-looking port and be available throughout the semester. NIRI will remain on its side-looking port until early July, when it is expected to be replaced with GNIRS, and GNIRS commissioned on this port. That is, **NIRI is likely to be unavailable in July**. NIFS and Michelle share the up-looking port. It is expected that **NIFS will be available from February to mid-June**, except for a three-week period still to be determined when this port will be used for the initial GNIRS commissioning. It is expected that **Michelle will be available only between mid-June and the end of July**. Michelle therefore has special restrictions on target availability: **Michelle targets should be restricted to $14:00 < \text{RA hrs} < 24:00$. All instruments are restricted for sky visibility as described in the Table and Figure above.**

Observations requiring the [Laser Guide Star \(LGS\) system](#) are restricted by the limitation that the **LGS must be used at or above 40 degrees elevation**. How this translates into RA and dec restrictions is indicated above. Standard ToO LGS observations are allowed; however target lists are generated for approval by [Space Command](#) approximately a week before each LGS run, using only "ready" observations. Therefore, while observations must be defined by the usual phase II deadline, any additions or alterations must be in place by [the LGS target preparation dates](#). We do offer limited LGS observations of Band 1 and 2 ToOs that are triggered less than a week before, or during, an LGS run. The observations must be made

during a planned LGS run at the telescope. Also, only two such targets (for all programs) can be observed during any typically week-long LGS run, and only one such target (for all programs) can be observed on any given night. All effort will be made to approve and observe a target within 24 hours, however this cannot be guaranteed, and the observation may occur two or three nights after the trigger is made.

Gemini South Instrument Availability and Target Accessibility

	Accessible	Restricted**	Inaccessible
Declination	-87d to +22d	-89d to -87d, +22d to +28d	< -89d and > +28d
Right Ascension	7h to 23h	23h to 2h, 5h to 7h	2h to 5h
T-ReCS, RA	9h to 2h		2h to 9h
NICI, RA	6h to 18h		0h to 6h, 18h to 24h

** GMOS MOS programs requiring pre-imaging should not have targets in this region. Programs with targets in this region should not require a large amount of time, or have strict timing or observing constraints.

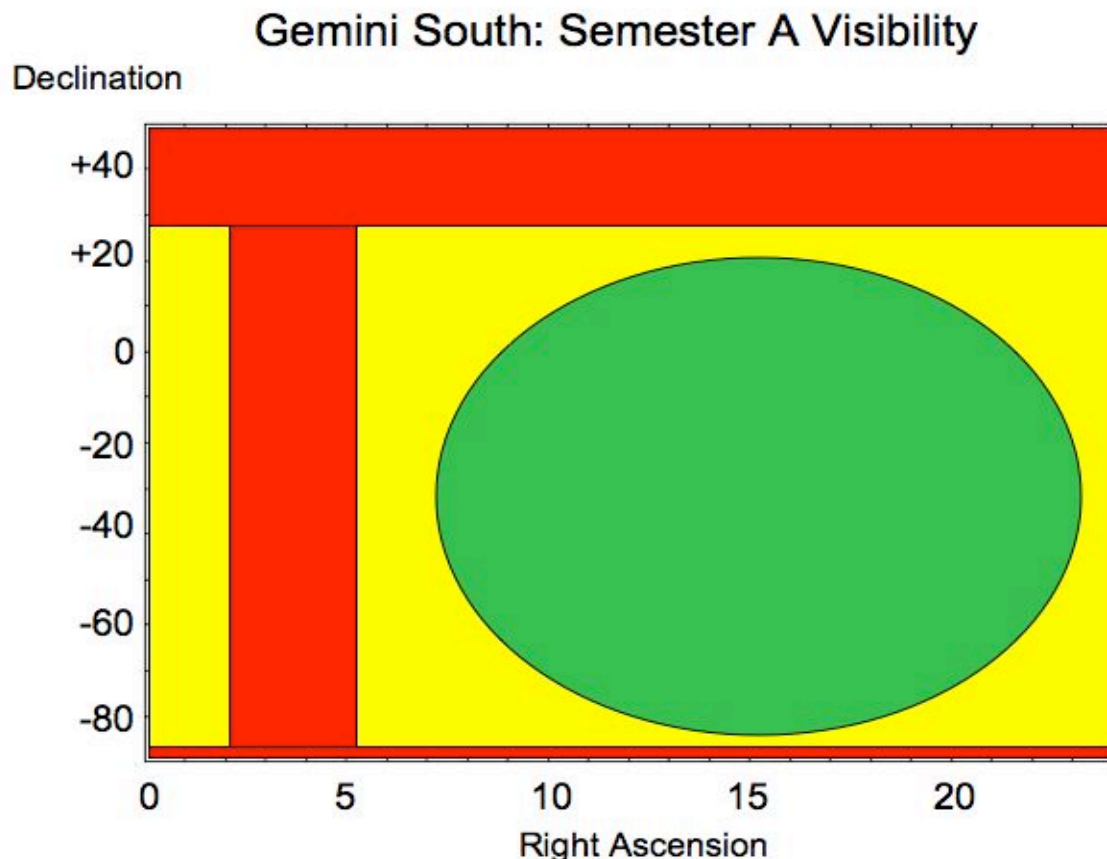


Figure 2: Target accessibility at Gemini South during semester 2009A. Green regions offer unrestricted access, red regions are inaccessible. The yellow region is possible, but restricted. See comments and values in the Table above.

The Gemini South instrument port situation is very complex in 2009A, with two instruments expected to be commissioned, Flamingos-2 and MCAO/GSAOI. GMOS-S availability will be maximised, especially for dark time, and Phoenix will be kept available to make use of poorer conditions. It is expected that **T-ReCS will not be available between February and March** (the wet season), and **NICI will only be available between February and April**. **T-ReCS targets should be restricted to 09:00 < RA hrs < 02:00** and **NICI targets should be restricted to 6:00 < RA hrs < 18:00**. All instruments are restricted for sky visibility as described above.

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Key dates and events in the proposal process are shown below. The Phase I and Phase II deadlines are highlighted.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Comments</i>
30 September 2008	Proposal deadline	Proposals received by National Gemini Offices (NGOs) - see partner-specific pages
Set by partner	NTAC meetings	Separate scientific and technical assessments by each Gemini partner ("National TACs")
No later than 13 November 2008	E-transmission	Electronic transmission of proposals to Gemini from NTACs
18-23 November 2008	Draft queue and classical schedule	E-mail iterations with ITAC members of preliminary allocations
24-25 November 2008	ITAC	International Time Allocation Committee meets to resolve issues and recommend programs
5 December 2008	Final queue/schedule, and ITAC & Gemini feedback to NGOs	After approval by Gemini Director
10 December 2008	Queue and classical schedule on web	Phase II programs ("skeletons") available in Observing Database; 2009A OT released
16 January 2009	Phase II deadline	Final PI deadline for submission of completed Phase II Science Programs to National Offices (earlier submission is encouraged)
30 January 2009	Phase II review complete	Goal for electronic transfer of checked Phase II programs from National Offices to Gemini
01 February 2009	Start of semester 2009A	2009A programs may be observed earlier to fill queue nights
16 February 2009	Queue fully loaded	Goal for activation of all Phase II programs

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Call for Proposals Supporting Information

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This page contains information on the following topics relevant to applying for time on Gemini. The information is general in nature, for details specific to the upcoming semester, please see the [current call for proposals](#).

- [Time Allocation Process](#) (National and International Time Allocation Committees)
- [Submitting for time on both telescopes](#)
- [Queue Rollover](#)
- [Electronic PIT Submission](#)
- [Joint Proposals](#)
- [Under-utilized Instruments](#)
- [Rapid Response or Target of Opportunity](#)
- [GMOS Mask definitions](#)
- [Poor Weather Programs](#)
- [Exchange Time](#)
- [Target information](#) (guide stars, non-sidereal objects, time-specific observations)
- [Duplicate Observations](#)

- [Return to current Call for Proposals](#)

Time Allocation Process

The assessment and ranking of proposals within each partner country will be via National Time Allocation Committees (NTACs) supported by the National Gemini Offices. Assembly of the final semester schedule and queue, definition of scientific ranking bands and resolution of conflicts and joint proposals between partners is done by the International Time Allocation Committee (ITAC), following the procedures described in the [Phase I overview](#).

Submissions to Use Multiple Telescopes

Each observing proposal may request resources from a single telescope only (Gemini North, Gemini South, Keck or Subaru). Proposals for multiple telescopes are no longer permitted, and the Phase I tool will not allow resources from multiple telescopes to be selected. Proposals may include the use of multiple instruments on the same telescope. If a program requires resources from multiple telescopes, separate proposals must be submitted for each telescope; in this case, each proposal should clearly reference the other(s). The proposals will be ranked and scheduled independently. Proposals that can be carried out with either GMOS (note that they have different capabilities) must nevertheless specify one of them; the NTACs or ITAC may make changes.

Queue Rollover

Programs assigned by the ITAC into Band 1 are eligible for rollover into the next semester, for no more than two consecutive semesters, in order to increase the likelihood of program completion. Rollover status will be assigned by the ITAC. Programs with rollover status will automatically be carried forward for up to 2 semesters until their time allocation is exhausted, i.e. PIs need not re-apply if the currently approved allocation is sufficient to reach the science goals of the program. Target of Opportunity programs are not given rollover status. National policies that affect eligibility are defined by the relevant NTAC.

Electronic Submission

All partners support electronic submission of proposals from within the Gemini Phase I Tool (PIT). In the US, submission of non-joint proposals using the NOAO web form continues to be supported. [Versions of the PIT](#) are created for each semester, including new features described in [PIT Hot News](#).

Joint Proposals

If you submit the same proposal to several partner countries (a "joint proposal") you must do so using PIT. The PIT software, and backend servers installed at each National Office, allow automatic ("one-click") submission of the same proposal to multiple partners. Joint proposals must be submitted by the deadline applicable to the institution of the Principal Investigator (PI); if the PI is not based in a partner country, the deadline will be the same as the Gemini staff deadline. Likewise, joint proposals must adhere to the proposal guidelines (regarding format and page length for example) of the same partner (that of the PI).

Under-Utilized Instruments

Community demand is a critical factor in determining instrument availability. Each instrument introduces significant overhead to the Observatory, and access to instrument ports is at a premium. If an instrument is requested for less than 6% of the Bands 1+2 time, the Observatory reserves the right to limit the RA range available to programs, or to not schedule the instrument.

Rapid Response or Target of Opportunity programs

We continue to encourage [Target of Opportunity](#) (ToO) programs (formerly called "Quick Response"), intended to allow observation of targets that cannot be specified in advance but which have a well defined **external trigger** (e.g., Supernovae or Gamma Ray Bursts which will be identified throughout the observing semester by non-Gemini programs).

"[ToO](#)" mode may be requested with any facility instrument. Proposals for ToO mode should be made via the normal proposal process and must select the type of trigger in the PIT and summarise the *trigger event* (e.g. identification of a target brighter than a pre-determined threshold) in the proposal abstract. *ToO covers trigger types from several months to minutes in response time*. Two types of ToO triggers are defined: "Rapid Response" and "Standard" which differ by [response time](#). Rapid response programs must be allocated time in Band 1. ToO programs will not be given rollover status.

Gamma Ray Burst (GRB) programs: in previous semesters many separate proposals for Gamma Ray Burst follow-up studies were submitted to the NTACs and a subset were forwarded to ITAC. As

in those semesters, the ITAC and Observatory will seek to combine or otherwise substitute such proposals, e.g. by forming partnerships or time-division strategies, so that only one proposal is active on each telescope at any time. Applicants for GRB studies are strongly encouraged to coordinate their proposals before submission. The Observatory and ITAC reserve the right to form umbrella programs based on the proposals forwarded by the NTACs.

GMOS Mask Definition

Mask making from non-GMOS images for GMOS [multi-object spectroscopy \(MOS\)](#) observations is available, but GMOS pre-imaging is recommended for MOS programs using slits narrower than 1.0" and for programs requiring very long observations of faint targets. If pre-imaging is required, then sufficient pre-imaging time should be included in the proposal. For classical programs, pre-imaging will be scheduled in the queue. Any unused pre-imaging time will be returned to the program.

Poor Weather Proposals

Often the queue contains insufficient proposals for the poorest conditions, despite the best efforts of the National TACs to pass on a balanced package of proposals to Gemini. To encourage submission of more proposals in this category, those with the observing condition constraints specified below will receive special consideration at the TACs. If the programs are ranked lower than band 3 they may be placed in a "Poor Weather Queue" (Band 4) and neither the PI nor partner country will be charged for any time used. Note however that poor weather programs are lower in priority than scientific ranking band 3. Poor weather programs may be submitted for any facility instrument but the observing constraints *must* match one of the following:

- Image Quality of "any" and Cloud Cover of 70%-ile or worse (non-photometric)
- Cloud Cover of 90%-ile (typically 2 magnitudes of cloud cover and unusable in the mid-IR) and any other combination of conditions

Water Vapour constraints for all poor weather proposals need to be set to "any". The Sky Background constraint can be specified and it is acceptable for these programs to request dark time.

Poor weather programs can now be submitted at any time in the semester. Use the [Phase I tool](#) to submit your proposal, selecting "Poor weather" from the drop down menu in the Submit tab. Such programs will be automatically placed in the Band 4 "Poor Weather Queue".

Exchange Time

Gemini Observatory encourages fruitful exchanges with other major observatories in order to expand the instrument capabilities available to the Gemini community. At present, the Observatory has two exchange programs in place. The first agreement is an exchange of classical nights for HIRES time on the Keck I telescope in exchange for classical nights with Michelle on Gemini North or T-ReCS on Gemini South. See the [Keck time application](#) page for information on applying for the Gemini time through Keck. The second agreement is for observing time on Subaru in exchange for observing at Gemini. Previously the Subaru nights were carried out in service mode, and the Gemini nights in queue; starting in 2008A the exchange is classical nights for classical nights. The Subaru instruments currently available to the Gemini community are Suprime-Cam and MOIRCS (imaging and multi-

object spectroscopy). In exchange, the Subaru community has access to both GMOS instruments (North and South), NIRI, NIFS and T-ReCS. See the [Subaru call for proposals](#) for more information on applying for Gemini time through Subaru. [Joint proposals](#) for Gemini time between the Japanese community and Gemini partners are permitted and encouraged. The details of the amount of time currently available and other restrictions are provided in the [current call for proposals](#).

Target Information

Time-specific (including periodic monitoring and follow-up) programs may be accepted on a best-efforts basis. Proposers should specify these time constraints in the PIT. Note that the instrument scheduling may impose additional restrictions on this class of programs.

All observations require the use of one wavefront sensor (WFS) star for fast guiding, primary mirror active optics control and/or as an adaptive optics wavefront reference source. The specific requirements for each instrument are given in the relevant science instrument web pages ("performance and use" section). As the technical feasibility of proposals relies in part on the availability of WFS stars, all proposals with well-defined targets must include suitable WFS stars. Proposals to observe non-sidereal objects should indicate the likely availability of WFS stars in the technical justification but are not required to supply specific stars. Target of Opportunity programs do not need to define WFS stars.

[Non-sidereal tracking](#) is available for all instruments. Non-sidereal tracking with GMOS is fully supported with the peripheral wavefront sensors and partially supported with the OIWFS (see [GMOS non-sidereal information](#)).

Duplicate Observations

Proposers should check their observations against the Gemini Science Archive to ensure that similar or identical observations have not already been executed. The Phase I Tool includes a function to facilitate this. Any duplicate or seemingly duplicate observations should be well-justified in the proposal. The NTACs will consider duplication of existing observations as part of the proposal evaluation. The ITAC evaluates and resolves any duplication of targets (or potential duplication in the case of ToO observations) between proposals from different partner countries.

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