

# Gemini Observatory: Exploring The Universe From Both Hemispheres

## Semester 2014A Call For Proposals

[Home](#) » [Sciops](#) » [Observing With Gemini](#)

Gemini Observatory invites its community to propose scientific investigations for the 2014A semester, 1 February 2014 - 31 July 2014.

The submission deadline [varies with partner](#) and ranges from **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26 TO WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2 2013**. Multi-partner joint proposals should be submitted by the deadline of the partner country to which the Principal Investigator is affiliated. Proposals for exchange time on Gemini from the Japanese community should be submitted by the [Gemini Staff proposal deadline](#). An [overview of the Gemini proposal submission process](#) is available.

The Call is open to all partners and host institutions : [Argentina](#), [Australia](#), [Brazil](#), [Canada](#), the [US](#), [Chile](#) and the [University of Hawaii](#). [US time is open to all astronomers](#) including those at non-US institutions, although in that case the proposal must explain why U.S. national facilities are needed. The distribution of time across the partners is shown in [the time distribution Table](#). Hardcopy of the primary Call pages is available as a [pdf document](#).

Jump to:

- [Summary of 2014A Gemini Capabilities](#)
- [Instruments and Modes Not Offered in 2014A](#)
- [Important Dates for 2014A](#)
- [Phase I Tool for 2014A](#)
- [Time Available in 2014A](#)
- [Exchange Time in 2014A](#)
- [Additional Information](#)

---

## Summary of 2014A Gemini Capabilities

### Gemini North

Target are limited to  $4 < \text{RA hours} < 1$  and  $-37 < \text{dec degrees} < +90$ . In some cases there are additional constraints as described below and in [the target and instrument accessibility page](#).

Facility instruments offered in 2014A, in queue or classical mode, are:

- **[GMOS North \(0.36-0.98 micron imager and spectrometer\)](#)**: available throughout the semester.
- **[GNIRS \(1-5 micron spectrometer\)](#)**: available through the semester, though the instrument may be removed in July for a lens replacement. Investigators with targets at RA 21 to 01 hours should therefore have backup targets available. All modes are available except for Y band imaging, and observations using the short red camera.
- **[NIFS \(0.95-2.40 micron integral field unit spectrometer\)](#)**: available throughout the semester.
- **[NIRI \(1-5 micron imager\)](#)**: available throughout the semester.
- **[Altair \(facility Adaptive Optics system\)](#)**: with NIFS, GNIRS and NIRI (except M-band), limited to RA 5h to 0h and Dec -27d to +68d. Laser guide star AO is available in queue mode only.

### Gemini South

Target are limited to  $5 < \text{RA hours} < 2$  and  $-90 < \text{dec degrees} < +28$ . In some cases there are

additional constraints as described below and in [the target and instrument accessibility page](#).

**Facility instruments** offered in 2014A, in queue or classical mode, are:

- **[FLAMINGOS-2 \(0.9-2.4 micron wide-field imager and spectrometer\)](#)**: offered in imaging and long-slit modes. MOS mode is not offered at this time. Investigators should refer to the [instrument status](#) page for the most up to date information on delivered image quality.
- **[GMOS-South \(0.36-0.93 micron imager and spectrometer\)](#)**: may not be available between March and April for a CCD upgrade. The amount of time at RA 7h to 11h will therefore be limited, and investigators should indicate in the technical case of their proposal if alternate targets are available. Investigators should assume the performance of the current EEV detectors for planning purposes.
- **[GSAOI \(0.9-2.4 micron adaptive optics imager\)](#) with the [GeMS Adaptive Optics system](#)**: targets are restricted to RA 6h to 1h and Dec -75d to +15d, and there are important [guide star limitations](#). [Investigators must check the availability of Guide Star constellations using the Observing Tool before submitting a proposal](#). Observations in IQ85 are possible for programs that can use [delivered images](#) with full-width half-maximum ~0.2 arcseconds as opposed to the  $\leq 0.1$  arcseconds delivered in IQ70 or IQ20 conditions. Laser guide star Adaptive Optics is available in queue mode only.

---

## Instruments and Modes Not Offered in 2014A

- The [R600 grating in GMOS-North and GMOS-South](#) will be available for classical programs only. This grating is [used infrequently](#) and is difficult to schedule in the queue.
- As in past semesters, [NIRI](#) is not available for spectroscopy.
- [FLAMINGOS-2](#) MOS mode is not offered at this time.
- The following instruments are not offered in 2014A (and have been retired): [Michelle](#), [NICI](#) and [T-ReCS](#).
- No visiting instruments are offered in 2014A.

---

## Important Dates for 2014A

The deadline for Phase I submission [varies with partner](#) and ranges from THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26 TO WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2 2013. [Poor weather](#) and [Director's Discretionary Time](#) proposals are accepted at any time via the [Phase I Tool](#). For successful proposals, both queue and classical, the [Phase II](#) submission deadline is January 16 2014. More information is available in the [2014A schedule](#).

---

## Phase I Tool for 2014A

Proposals for time on Gemini, and for time on Subaru via the Gemini-Subaru exchange program, must use the Gemini [Phase I Tool \(PIT\)](#). The 2014A PIT has been updated to improve the instrument configuration options, and provide better feedback if there are submission problems. **Latex and Word [templates are available](#) to create a pdf attachment which includes the science and technical cases. For 2014A there are significant changes in the template. More space has been made available for proposal description by adding an "Experimental Design" section. Also the PI is now strongly encouraged to include the output from the [instrument time calculators](#) in the proposal. The instructions for each section have been revised and investigators should read these notes carefully. See the [PIT page](#) for installation information and the [help pages for the PIT](#) for assistance.**

---

## Time Available in 2014A

The science time available for each partner and host institution in 2014A is shown on the [time distribution page](#). The science time available at each telescope includes a 7% Director's Discretionary Time allocation and 1 night for [instrument performance monitoring](#). The Director's Discretionary Time is divided into a maximum [5% share for use by staff](#) (which is open for joint proposals with the partners), and a minimum 2% share available to all astronomers through the [Director's Discretionary Time proposal process](#). At Gemini North 169 nights are expected to be available for science, which include 3 nights of System Verification of [GMOS](#) with [Altair](#) and 3 nights for early science with [GRACES](#). At Gemini South 151 nights are expected to be available for science, which include 4 nights of guaranteed time for the [GSAOI](#) instrument team, 1.5 nights for [GMOS-S CCD upgrade demonstration science](#) and 7 nights for [GPI](#) early science.

---

## Exchange Time

### **A minimum of 5 classical nights are available on Subaru in Semester 2014A.**

- Proposals should be submitted via the normal [Gemini Phase I process](#). PIs in the Gemini community who intend to use the Subaru telescope are encouraged to apply through the time-exchange program and not through the open use Subaru Call. Subaru Observatory staff request that any PIs with direct access to Gemini not request time on Gemini via the Subaru exchange program.
- Time must be requested in integer nights, and runs will be evenly distributed across dark, gray and bright nights.
- See the [Subaru Call for Proposals](#) for important information. Notes on capabilities follow:
  - **A two-week downtime is expected for telescope maintenance during S14A, but dates are not yet determined.**
  - [COMICS \(mid-infrared camera and spectrometer\)](#) is available.
  - [FMOS \(near-infrared fiber-fed multi-object spectrometer\)](#) is available in shared-risk mode only.
  - [FOCAS \(optical camera and spectrograph\)](#) is available. The Cassegrain Atmospheric Dispersion Corrector is expected to be available in shared-risk mode.
  - [HDS \(optical high dispersion spectrometer\)](#) is available. A new image slicer is available in shared-risk mode.
  - [Hyper Suprime-Cam \(very wide field optical to far-red imager\)](#) is available in shared-risk mode using *grizy* filters only. Up to two nights will be available to the Gemini community between late March and early April or during June and July.
  - [IRCS \(infrared camera and spectrometer, with Natural and Laser Guide Star Adaptive Optics capability\)](#) is available, with a new grism and a different filter set.
  - [MOIRCS \(near-infrared imager and multi-object spectrometer\)](#) will be unavailable during February and March for a detector upgrade. All observations during S14A will be shared-risk.
  - [Suprime-Cam \(wide field optical imager\)](#) is available. The required filters must be explicitly stated in the proposal.

**No Gemini-Keck exchange time is offered in Semester 2014A.**

---

## Additional Information

Please see the page of [supporting information](#) for additional general information. Prospective users should also refer to the [target and instrument accessibility page](#), and [the instrument pages](#) for detailed and up to date information on instrumentation.

---

## 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 [Steve Margheim](#).*

---

*Last Modified: August 29, 2013, sleggett*

[Sitemap](#) | [Website Chilean Mirror](#)

## Gemini Observatory: Exploring The Universe From Both Hemispheres

# 2014A Instrument Availability and Target Accessibility

[Home](#) » [Sciops](#) » [Observing With Gemini](#) » [2014A Call For Proposals](#)

This page provides best estimates, at the time of the Call for Proposals, of instrument availability and target (RA, dec) restrictions for 2014A. Jump to:

- [Instrument and Instrument Configuration Restrictions](#)
- [Non-Sidereal Targets](#)
- [Gemini North](#)
- [Gemini South](#)
- [Graphical Illustration](#)

---

## Instrument and Instrument Configuration Restrictions

At each Gemini telescope, instruments are mounted at the Cassegrain focus on the [instrument support structure \(ISS\)](#). A science fold mirror mounted inside the ISS can be rotated to send the light from the telescope to any of four side-looking ports, or can be retracted so that the light goes to the up-looking port. At each site, the calibration unit and the Adaptive Optics system use two of the side ports, leaving two side-looking and one uplooking port for other instrumentation. As more than three instruments are offered each semester, instrument swaps will be required and not all instruments will be available for the entire semester. Instrument swaps will be driven by demand and scheduled to minimize impact on the queue. Certain targets or entire programs may 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. Changes to the instrument mounting are not permitted during classical runs.

---

## Non-Sidereal Targets

Non-sidereal targets can have a broader range in RA than indicated in the Tables below due to, for example, the need to observe comets relatively close to the Sun. The ephemeris for any submitted target however must include a position that is accessible between evening and morning twilight at some point in the semester. For rapidly moving targets PIs should specify in the proposal when the target is accessible, and the coordinates of the target at that time, so that the observation can be checked for feasibility.

---

## Gemini North Instrument Availability and Target Accessibility

All instruments are restricted for sky visibility as described in the Table and Figure below. In addition:

- [GNIRS](#) may be removed from the telescope in July for a lens replacement. Investigators with targets at RA 21 to 01 hours should therefore have backup targets available.
- The [Laser Guide Star \(LGS\) system](#) must be used at or above 40 degrees elevation. How this translates into RA and dec restrictions is indicated in the Table.

	Accessible	Restricted **	Inaccessible
Declination,	-30d to +73d	-37d to -30d,	< -37d

non-LGS		+73d to +90d	
Declination, LGS	-22d to +65d	-27d to -22d, +65d to +68d	< -27d and > +68d
Right Ascension, non-LGS	7h to 22h	4h to 7h, 22h to 1h	1h to 4h
Right Ascension, LGS	8h to 21h	5h to 8h, 21h to 0h	0h to 5h

\*\* Due to limited sky availability during the semester, GMOS MOS programs requiring pre-imaging should not have targets in this region, and other programs with targets in this region should not require a large amount of time, or have strict timing or observing constraints.

---

## Gemini South Instrument Availability and Target Accessibility

All instruments are restricted for sky visibility as described in the Table and Figure below. In addition:

- [GMOS-South](#) may not be available between March and April for a CCD upgrade. The amount of time at RA 7h to 11h will therefore be limited, and investigators should indicate in the technical case of their proposal if alternate targets are available.
- Observations using [GeMS](#) are restricted to greater than 45 degrees elevation. How this translates into RA and dec restrictions is indicated in the Table.

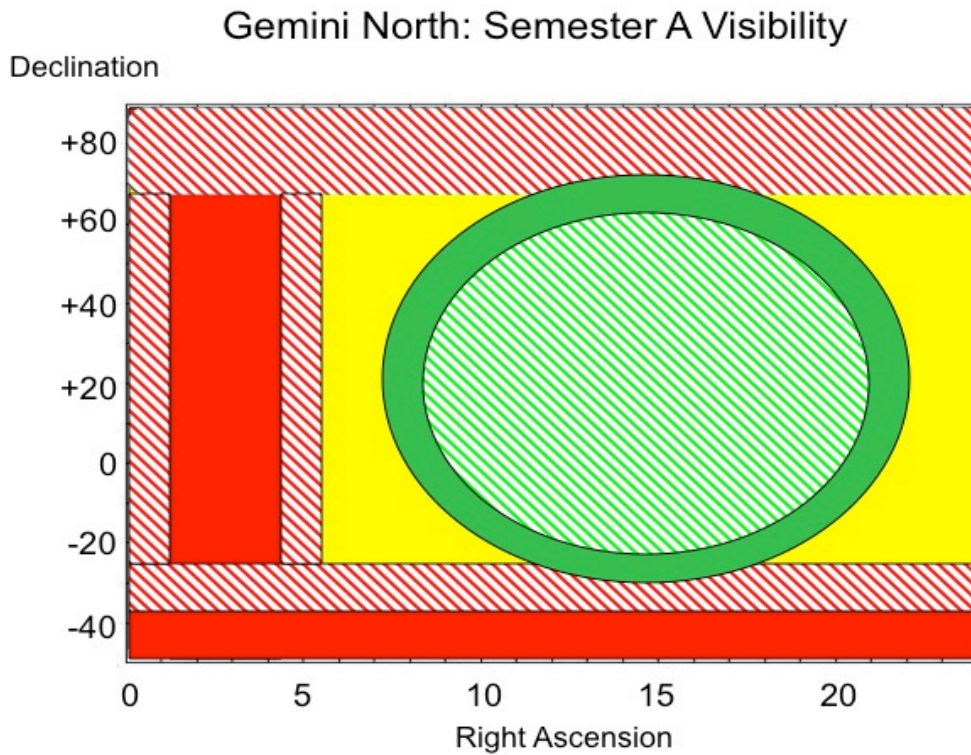
	Accessible	Restricted **	Inaccessible
Declination	-87d to +22d	-90d to -87d, +22d to +28d	> +28d
Declination, GSAOI + GeMS	-70d to +10d	-75d to -70d, +10d to +15d	< -75d and > +15d
Right Ascension	7h to 23h	5h to 7h, 23h to 2h	2h to 5h
Right Ascension, GSAOI + GeMS	8h to 22h	6h to 8h, 22h to 1h	1h to 6h

\*\* Due to limited sky availability during the semester, GMOS MOS programs requiring pre-imaging should not have targets in this region, and other programs with targets in this region should not require a large amount of time, or have strict timing or observing constraints.

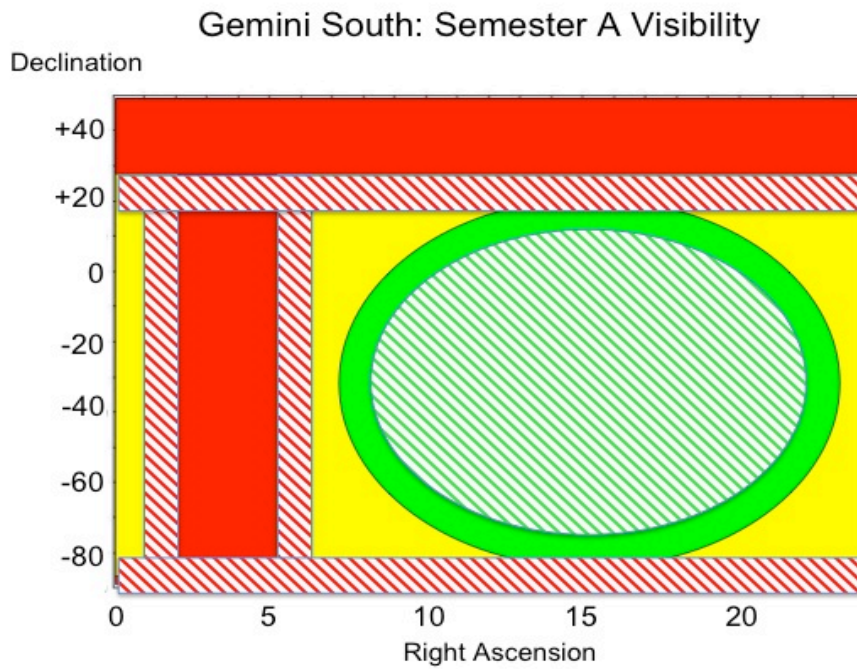
---

## Graphical Illustration





**Figure 1:** Schematic representation of target accessibility at Gemini North during semester 2014A. 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 text, and values in the [Gemini North](#) Table above.



**Figure 2:** Schematic representation of target accessibility at Gemini South during semester 2013B. Green regions offer

unrestricted access, red regions are inaccessible. Hatched areas indicate the more restricted GeMS regions. The yellow region is possible, but restricted. See text, and values in the [Gemini South](#) Table above.

---

*Last Modified: August 28, 2013, sleggett*

[Sitemap](#) | [Website Chilean Mirror](#)



# Gemini Observatory: Exploring The Universe From Both Hemispheres

## Semester 2014A Time Distribution

[Home](#) » [Sciops](#) » [Observing With Gemini](#) » [2014A Call For Proposals](#)

### Overview

The time available on each of Gemini North and South is distributed according to the [Observatory partners' shares](#). To maintain overall balance amongst the partnership, the allocations are adjusted each semester as a result of actual time charged in prior semesters. The allocations are approved at the Operations Working Group meeting prior to the Call. 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 science time available at each telescope includes a 7% Director's Discretionary Time allocation and 1 night for [instrument performance monitoring](#). The Director's Discretionary Time is divided into a maximum [5% share for use by staff](#) (which is open for joint proposals with the partners), and a minimum 2% share available to all astronomers through the [Director's Discretionary Time proposal process](#). The time available for each partner and host institution in 2014A is shown in the Tables below. The number of nights is approximated by  $\text{int}(\text{hours}/10)$ .

### Gemini North: Time Availability and Distribution

A minimum of 93.4% of the time will be available for science use on Gemini North in 2014A, which amounts to 169 nights and includes 3 nights of System Verification of [GMOS](#) with [Altair](#) and 3 nights for early science with [GRACES](#). The non-science time will be used for observatory maintenance tasks, commissioning of GMOS with Altair, and commissioning of GRACES. Any unused engineering time will be returned to science.

Partner	Estimated Hours Available
US	925
Canada	279
Australia	93
Brazil	73
Argentina	35
Univ. of Hawaii (host)	121

### Gemini South: Time Availability and Distribution

A minimum of 83% of the time will be available for science use on Gemini South in 2014A, which amounts to 151 nights and includes 4 nights of guaranteed time for the [GSAOI](#) instrument team, 1.5 nights for [GMOS-S CCD upgrade demonstration science](#), and 7 nights for [GPI](#) early science. The non-science time will be used for observatory maintenance tasks, to complete [GPI](#) commissioning, commission the [GMOS-S](#) Hamamatsu CCDs, and commission [GSAOI](#) on a side port. Any unused engineering time will be returned to science.

Partner	Estimated Hours Available
US	769
Canada	230

Australia	78
Brazil	57
Argentina	26
Chile (host)	138

*Last Modified: August 29, 2013, sleggett*

[Sitemap](#) | [Website Chilean Mirror](#)

## Semester 2014A Important Dates

[Home](#) » [Sciops](#) » [Observing With Gemini](#) » [2014A Call For Proposals](#)

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>
<b>26 September to 2 October 2013</b> ( <a href="#">varies with partner</a> )	<b>Proposal deadline</b>	<b>Proposals received by <a href="#">National Gemini Offices (NGOs)</a>.</b>
Early November (set by partner)	NTAC meetings	Scientific assessments by each Gemini partner ("National TAC").
7 to 13 November 2013	E-transmission	<a href="#">Electronic transmission</a> of proposals to Gemini from NTACs.
21 November 2013	ITAC	International Time Allocation Committee meets to resolve issues and recommend programs.
27 November 2013	Final queue/schedule, and ITAC & Gemini feedback to NGOs	After approval by Gemini Director.
<b>5 December 2013</b>	<b>14A schedule and Phase IIs available</b>	<b>2014A OT templates available to PIs.</b>
2 January 2014	Phase II reviews start	The response time is 7 days for checking by NGOs (from "For Review") and by Gemini CSs (from "For Activation").
<b>16 January 2014</b>	<b>Phase II deadline</b>	<b>PI deadline for submission of completed Phase II Programs to National Offices (earlier submission is encouraged).</b>
<b>30 January 2014</b>	<b>"For Activation" deadline</b>	<b>NGO deadline for submission of completed Phase II Programs to Gemini.</b>
1 February 2014	Start of semester 2014A	2014A programs may be observed earlier to fill queue nights.

---

*Last Modified: August 28, 2013, sleggett*

[Sitemap](#) | [Website Chilean Mirror](#)