

Gemini Observatory: Exploring The Universe From Both Hemispheres

Semester 2012B Call For Proposals

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Gemini Observatory invites its community to propose scientific investigations for the 2012B semester, 1 August 2012 - 31 January 2013. The Call is open to all partners. The distribution of time across the partners is shown in [the time distribution Table](#).

The submission deadline is THURSDAY/FRIDAY MARCH 29/30 2012 (the exact deadline [varies with partner](#)). Multi-partner joint proposals should be submitted by the deadline of the partner country to which the Principal Investigator is affiliated.

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

Highlights for 2012B

General
<p>Relevant milestones for 2012B can be found in the 2012B schedule. The deadline for Phase I submission is March 29 - 30 2012 (depending on partner) (Poor weather and Director's Discretionary Time proposals are accepted at any time via the Phase I Tool), and for successful proposals the Phase II submission deadline is July 16 2012. Both queue and classical Phase IIs must be submitted by this deadline.</p>
<p>Target accessibility limits will be imposed, so as not to bias the queue at the start or end of the semester. The target accessibility limits for 2012B are, for Gemini North $17 < RA < 13.5$ and $-37 < dec < +90$, and for Gemini South $16 < RA < 12$ and $-90 < dec < +28$. There are additional constraints if a program requires unrestricted access (e.g. MOS observations requiring pre-imaging, long observations or observations with strict constraints). LGS programs and GNIRS programs at Gemini North also have additional constraints.</p>
<p>An entirely new and improved Phase I Tool (PIT) has been released for 2012B; see the PIT page for downloads and the help pages for the new PIT for further information. With the new PIT, a single proposal may now request time from either or both of Gemini North and Gemini South. Hence a single proposal, with the same science goal, can request any combination of the instruments available at either telescope.</p>
Gemini North
<p>It is expected that 86.5% of the semester will be available for science. This amounts to 159 nights distributed across the partnership. A list of instruments and capabilities is given below.</p>
<p>GMOS-N has been outfitted with e2V deep depletion detectors. These CCDs have improved sensitivity in the blue and the red compared to the original detectors, and extend the sensitivity to 0.98 μm (where the QE is 20%). The fringing with these detectors is also much improved. Z and Y imaging filters are available for GMOS-N in 2012B.</p>
<p>All GNIRS applicants should take account of the Notes on the revised GNIRS ITC page when determining how much time their programs require. Additional MKO-system Y, J and K filters will be available in 2012B for imaging using the GNIRS acquisition "keyhole", although infrared imaging proposals should continue to request NIRI where possible.</p>

A new ["Super seeing" LGS + PWFS1 capability](#) is available in shared-risk mode in 2012B with NIRI, NIFS and GNIRS, for up to 100 hours of time (within the LGS limit of 200 hours). Observing conditions are constrained to CC=50% IQ=70%, and the target elevation must be ≥ 40 degrees. PWFS1 provides tip/tilt/focus correction, improving the delivered image quality from effectively IQ70 to IQ20. The PWFS1 patrol field is 3.5' - 6.5' from base, and guide stars are limited to $R < 14$. There are unresolved flexure issues, and targets must be bright enough to acquire directly. This limits targets to approximately brighter than 20th magnitude for GNIRS and NIFS spectroscopy, and 22nd magnitude for NIRI imaging. Prospective users should refer to the [LGS + PWFS1 page](#) for more information.

Gemini South

It is expected that 81% of the semester will be available for science. This amounts to 149 nights, which do not include NICI campaign science, as the campaign is expected to be completed in 2012A. These nights do include 20 nights of System Verification for [FLAMINGOS-2](#) and [GSAOI](#). The final distribution of nights across the partnership is shown on the [time distribution](#) page. A list of instruments and capabilities is given [below](#).

At Gemini South in Semester 2012B, the commissioning of [FLAMINGOS-2](#) and [GSAOI](#) will take highest priority. The commissioning may impact queue and classical run scheduling. A separate Call will be made for system verification proposals for [FLAMINGOS-2](#) and [GSAOI](#).

Only [GMOS-South](#) and [NICI](#) are offered in this Call, due to the demand on instrument ports, and the ongoing instrument commissioning. Given the available instrument suite, bright-time programs with relaxed observing condition constraints (e.g., SB Any, CC 70, IQ 85) are encouraged.

The schedule for the [repair of the FLAMINGOS-2 lens](#) is too uncertain to offer [FLAMINGOS-2](#) in this Call. We expect the instrument to be back on the telescope mid-Semester-2012B. Commissioning and System Verification will be carried out in the second half of 2012B.

[T-ReCS](#) is not available for new proposals in this call. The instrument will continue to occupy the up-looking port in August and September 2012 until the return of [GSAOI](#), which requires the use of the same port. T-ReCS will be available for [Directors Discretionary proposals](#) during August and September 2012. During this time T-ReCS will be used to carry out existing programmes which were badly affected by technical issues in 2011B.

The [NICI](#) campaign will be completed in Semester 2012A, therefore PIs may now apply to make observations of the previously-restricted [Campaign targets](#). However, TACs will avoid granting time to observations which approximate the observing mode and depth achieved by the Campaign, unless the science case specifically justifies why these new observations are necessary. All Campaign observations taken before May 2011 will become publicly available via the GSA on 24-November 2012.

Keck and Subaru Exchange

No Gemini-Keck exchange time is offered for Semester 2012B.

4 to 8 classical nights are available on [Subaru in Semester 2012B](#). Repair work due to the [cooling system incident](#) is ongoing, impacting some instruments. Availability is as follows:

- [COMICS](#) (mid-infrared camera and spectrograph) available throughout 12B without the auto-guider, available from September 2012 only if the guider is required, in shared-risk mode.
- [FMOS](#) (near-infrared fiber-fed multi-object spectrograph) available on a shared-risk basis for both high- and low-resolution mode with IRS1 and IRS2.
- [FOCAS](#) (optical camera and spectrograph) available on a shared-risk basis from October 2012.
- [HDS](#) (optical high dispersion spectrograph) is available.
- [IRCS](#) (infrared camera and spectrograph, with Natural and Laser Guide Star Adaptive Optics capability) is available.
- [MOIRCS](#) (near-infrared imager and multi-object spectrograph) available throughout 12B without the auto-guider, available from September 2012 only if the guider is required, in shared-risk mode. Spectroscopy with MOIRCS requires the autoguider.
- [Suprime-Cam](#) (wide field optical imager) available, in shared-risk mode.

Subaru is expected to have [extensive downtime in the 12B semester](#) for Hyper Suprime Cam commissioning, but the dates are yet to be determined. Therefore proposers must be as flexible as possible with their scheduling requirements. Explicit windows are not set for 2012B. Runs will be scheduled around the shutdown, such that the number of dark, gray and bright nights is one-third of the total number of nights allocated. **The minimum request is 1 night** - partial nights cannot be supported. Proposals should be submitted via the normal Gemini process. [\[more information\]](#)

Additional Information

Details of the capabilities available at each Gemini 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](#) - **0.36-0.98 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.
 - [GNIRS](#) - **1-5 micron spectrograph**: fed with the direct or AO-corrected beam. 5σ one hour point source sensitivities are approximately $K=18.5$ to $K=14.5$ depending on the resolution used. [Imaging with GNIRS](#) is also possible, although the field of view and filter selection is limited, and the optics do not give diffraction-limited image quality. GNIRS will be offline for maintenance and upgrade work in 2012, and will only be available for the last two months of the semester. Targets should therefore be limited to $0 < RA < 13.5$.
 - [Michelle](#) - **7-26 micron spectrograph and imager**: imaging and $R=100-3000$ and echelle spectroscopy. 5σ one hour point source sensitivities are approximately $N=11$ for imaging and $N=6-9$ for spectroscopy. **Michelle will most likely only be available for one or two short periods during the semester**, depending on demand. Neither imaging polarimetry nor spectropolarimetry will be offered with Michelle in 2012B.
 - [NIRI](#) - **1-5 micron imager**: imaging fed with the direct or AO-corrected beam. 5σ one hour point source sensitivities are approximately $K=23$ for imaging. NIRI is no longer offered for spectroscopy.
 - [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 $K=18.7$.
 - [Altair](#) - **facility AO system**: for use with GNIRS, NIFS and NIRI (except at M-band).
 - Natural Guide Star AO: Traditional adaptive optics guiding on a nearby star.
 - See the [Laser Guide Star AO](#) web pages for important performance information and restrictions. Note that LGS observations must specify "Laser guide star" in the AO resources section in the PIT, and must request CC 50 and IQ 70. Faint tip tilt stars will also require darker skies: $17.5 < R < 18$ needs SB 80, $18 < R < 18.5$ needs SB 50. A ["Super seeing LGS + PWFS1 mode"](#) is available in shared-risk mode in 2012B; PWFS1 can be used to provide natural guide star tip/tilt/focus correction, improving the delivered image quality to $\text{FWHM} \sim 0.2''-0.3''$ under $0.4''-0.6''$ seeing (IQ70 -> IQ20). The PWFS1 patrol field is 3.5' - 6.5' from the base position and guide stars must be brighter than $R=14$. This mode is available for near-infrared observations with NIRI, NIFS and GNIRS. There are additional overheads and target brightness limitations for this mode, as described in the [LGS + PWFS1](#) web pages.

- See the [target accessibility page](#) for important information regarding instrument availability and a plot of accessible RA and Dec. For Semester 2012B targets must be limited to $17 < RA < 13.5$ and $-37 < dec < +90$, and targets for GNIRS and the LGS system have additional [additional constraints](#).

Gemini South: Facilities

- All instruments are offered in [queue](#) and [classical](#) mode.
- Facility instruments:
 - [GMOS South](#) - **0.36-0.93 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.
 - [NICI](#) - **1-5 micron dual-channel coronagraphic imager**: Constraints must be at least as good as CC 70 and IQ 70. CC 70 programs need to have brighter guide stars and less demanding sensitivity requirements. NICI will most likely be displaced by FLAMINGOS-2 during the second half of the semester, however its availability will be matched to demand to the extent possible.
 - [FLAMINGOS-2](#) and [GSAOI](#) are expected to be available for System Verification only in 2012B, in the second half of the semester.
- For Semester 2012B targets must be limited to $16 < RA < 12$ and $-90 < dec < +28$.

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: March 1, 2012, sleggett

2012B Instrument Availability and Target Accessibility

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This page provides best estimates, at the time of the Call for Proposals, of instrument availability and target (RA, dec) restrictions for 2012B.

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. When possible instrument swaps will be scheduled to minimize impact on the queue and instrument swaps will be driven by demand. Hence the final schedule will not be made until after the semester programs are known. 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

All instruments are restricted for sky visibility as described in the Table and Figure below. Observations requiring the [Laser Guide Star \(LGS\) system](#) are further 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 in the Table. At Gemini North, [Michelle](#) will most likely only be available for one or two short periods. [GNIRS](#) will be offline for maintenance and upgrade work in 2012, and will only be available for the last two months of the semester - December 2012 and January 2013. The Table below lists the resulting restriction on RA for this instrument.

	Accessible	Restricted**	Inaccessible
Declination, non-LGS	-30d to +73d	-37d to -30d, +73d to +90d	< -37d
Declination, LGS	-22d to +65d	-27d to -22d, +65d to +68d	< -27d and > +68d
Right Ascension, non-LGS	19h to 11h	17h to 19h, 11h to 13.5h	13.5h to 17h
Right Ascension, LGS	20h to 10h	18h to 20h, 10h to 12.5h	12.5h to 18h
GNIRS Right Ascension	2h to 11h	0h to 2h, 11h to 13.5h	13.5h to 0h

** 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 North: Semester B Visibility

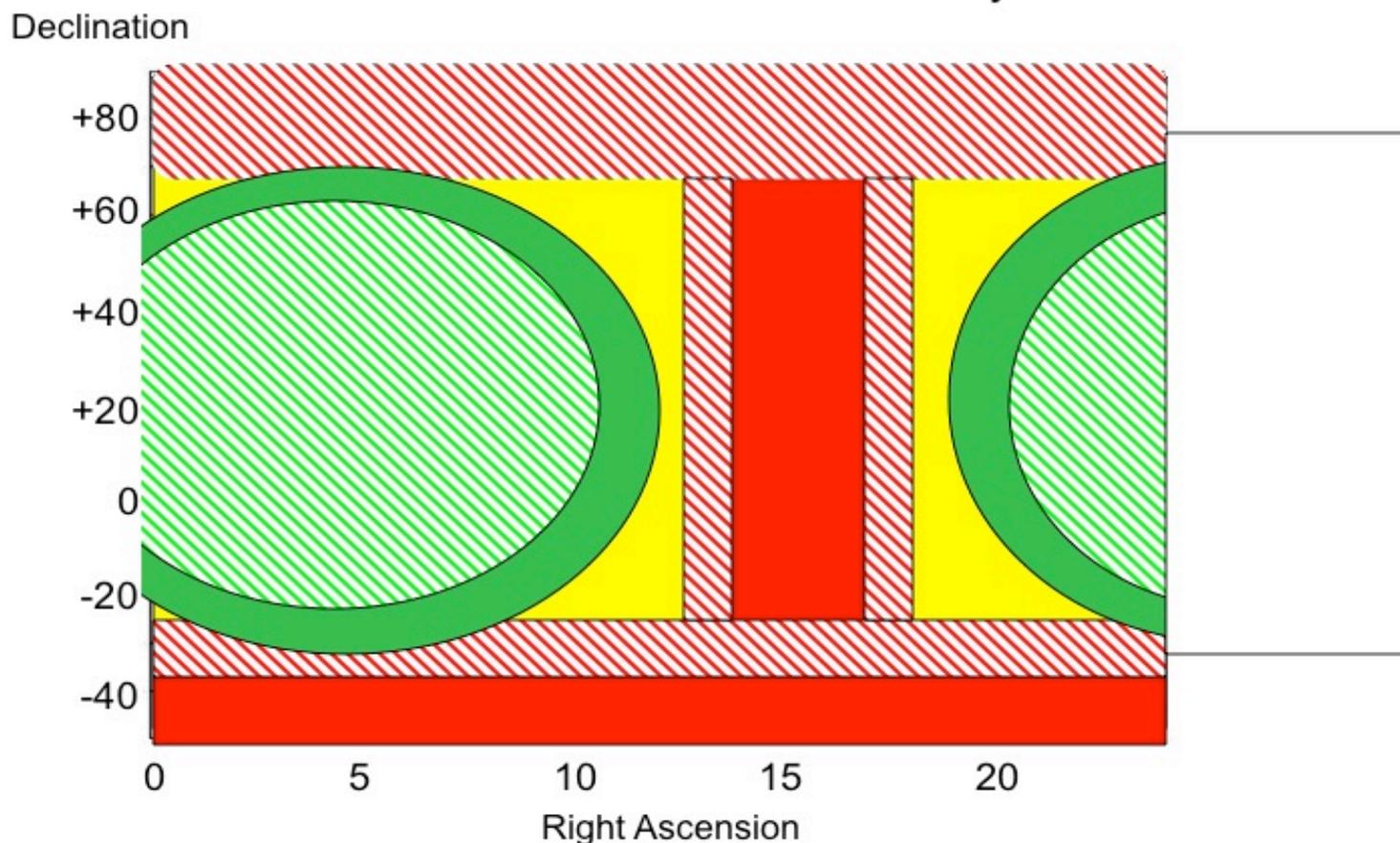


Figure 1: Schematic representation of target accessibility at Gemini North during semester 2012B. Green regions offer unrestricted access, red regions are inaccessible. Hatched areas indicate the more restricted LGS regions. The yellow region is possible, but restricted. See text, and values in the Table above.

Gemini South Instrument Availability and Target Accessibility

Only [GMOS-South](#) and [NICI](#) are offered in this Call, due to the demand on instrument ports, and the ongoing instrument commissioning. All instruments are restricted for sky visibility as described in the Table and Figure below. [NICI](#) will most likely be displaced by FLAMINGOS-2 during the second half of the semester, however its availability will be matched to demand to the extent possible. [T-ReCS](#) is not offered in 2012B, however if it remains mounted at the start of the semester it will be eligible for Director's Discretionary programs. [FLAMINGOS-2](#) and [GSAOI](#) are expected to be available for System Verification only in 2012B, in the second half of the semester.

	Accessible	Restricted**	Inaccessible
Declination	-87d to +22d	-90d to -87d, +22d to +28d	> +28d

Right Ascension	19h to 9h	16h to 19h, 9h to 12h	12h to 16h
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** 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: Semester B Visibility

Declination

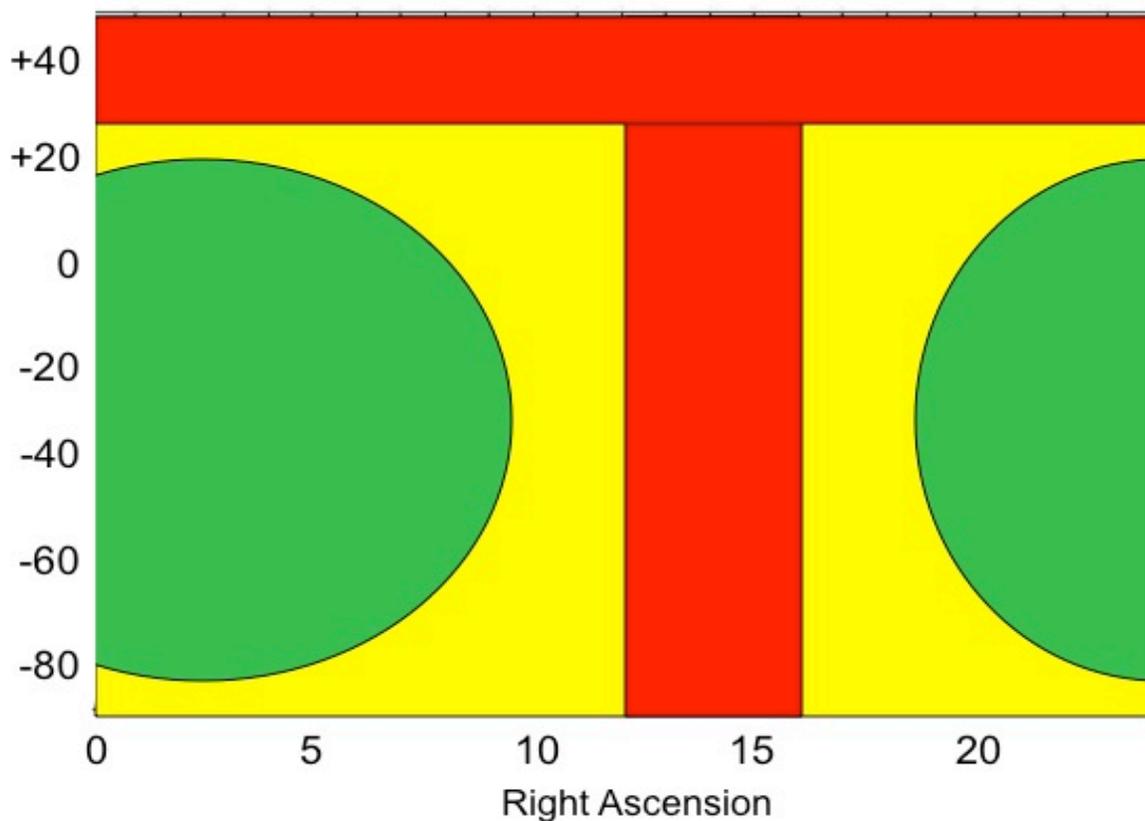


Figure 2: Schematic representation of target accessibility at Gemini South during semester 2012B. Green regions offer unrestricted access, red regions are inaccessible. The yellow region is possible, but restricted. See text, and values in the Table above.

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Semester 2012B Time Distribution

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Gemini North: Time Availability and Distribution

A minimum of 86.5% of the time will be available for science use on Gemini North in 2012B. This amounts to 159 nights and includes a 7% Director's Discretionary Time allocation, in agreement with Gemini Board resolution 2011.A.9. Of the Director's Discretionary Time, the Director has decided to make 5% available for staff use, while 2% will be available to all astronomers through the [Director's Discretionary Time proposal process](#) throughout the semester. Staff time remains open for joint proposals with the partners. The non-science time will be used for observatory maintenance tasks, re-commissioning of [GNIRS](#), and commissioning of [GRACES](#). 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 available to each partner and the host in 2012B is given in the following table. The numbers take into account corrections for prior imbalances.

Partner	Estimated Hours Available
US	619
UK	252
Canada	229
Australia	98
Brazil	59
Argentina	34
Univ. of Hawaii (host)	202

Gemini South: Time Availability and Distribution

A minimum of 81% of the time will be available for science use on Gemini South in 2012B. This amounts to 149 nights, which do not include NICI campaign science, as the campaign is expected to be completed in 2012A. These nights do include 20 nights of System Verification for [FLAMINGOS-2](#) and [GSAOI](#), and 7% of Director's Discretionary Time in agreement with Gemini Board resolution 2011.A.9. Of the Director's Discretionary Time, the Director has decided to make 5% available for staff use, while 2% will be available to all astronomers through the [Director's Discretionary Time proposal process](#) throughout the semester. Staff time remains open for joint proposals with the partners. The non-science time will be used for observatory maintenance tasks, [FLAMINGOS-2](#) commissioning, and [GSAOI](#) 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 available to each partner and the host in 2012B is given in the following table. The numbers take into account corrections for prior imbalances.

Partner	Estimated Hours Available
US	508
UK	196
Canada	194

Australia	84
Brazil	53
Argentina	29
Chile (host)	142

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 2011B. The time allocations also include a purchase by Brazil of 35 hours of UK time at each telescope. The values shown in the tables above were recommended by the Operations Working Group in February 2012. The number of nights is approximated by $\text{int}(\text{hours}/10)$.

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Gemini Observatory: Exploring The Universe From Both Hemispheres

Semester 2012B Important Dates

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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>
29-30 March 2012 (varies by partner)	Proposal deadline	Proposals received by National Gemini Offices (NGOs).
Early May (set by partner)	NTAC meetings	Scientific assessments by each Gemini partner ("National TAC").
On or before 14 May 2012	E-transmission	Electronic transmission of proposals to Gemini from NTACs.
23-24 May 2012	ITAC	International Time Allocation Committee meets to resolve issues and recommend programs.
8 June 2012	Final queue/schedule, and ITAC & Gemini feedback to NGOs	After approval by Gemini Director.
18 June 2012	12B schedule and Phase IIs available	2012B OT "skeletons" available to PIs.
2 July 2012	Phase II reviews start	The response time is 7 days for checking by NGOs (from "For Review") and by Gemini CSs (from "For Activation").
16 July 2012	Phase II deadline	PI deadline for submission of completed Phase II Programs to National Offices (earlier submission is encouraged).
30 July 2012	"For Activation" deadline	NGO deadline for submission of completed Phase II Programs to Gemini.
1 August 2012	Start of semester 2012B	2012B programs may be observed earlier to fill queue nights.

Last Modified: March 1, 2012, sleggett

Gemini Observatory: Exploring The Universe From Both Hemispheres

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](#)

Time Allocation Process

An overview of the proposal submission and time allocation process is given [here](#). 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).

Submissions to Use Multiple Telescopes

Starting in Semester 2012B, a single proposal may request time from either or both of Gemini North and Gemini South. Hence a single proposal, with the same science goal, can request any combination of the instruments available at either telescope. Proposals for time on Keck or Subaru can only request time on Keck or Subaru, respectively. At the TAC stage, proposals for time on both Gemini North and South will be split into two proposals, to allow scheduling of each telescope independently.

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 the 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 should be submitted by the deadline of the partner country to which the Principal Investigator is affiliated. The roles and contributions of each Partner Lead Scientist should be clearly explained in a Joint Proposal.

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, 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.

Since semester 2011B, all **proposals for Rapid Target of Opportunity (RToO) followup are required to submit a separate proposal for Standard Target of Opportunity followup (SToO) in conditions better than SB/CC/IQ=Any, if such followup is planned**. Upgrades to good conditions will not be approved for RToO programs, and the SToO proposal is required if such conditions are necessary for later followup. This change is necessary for accurate filling of the queue, as ToO programs now make up a significant fraction of the Observatory band 1 time. See the [Target of Opportunity \(ToO\)](#) web page for further information.

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. Poor weather programs can be submitted to your NTAC at the time of the regular Call for Proposals, or at any time in the semester. Use the [Phase I tool \(PIT\)](#) to submit your proposal, selecting "Poor weather" from the drop down menu in the Submit tab, in the case of the 12A PIT, and by selecting "Other" then "Poor Weather" as Proposal Class and Type respectively, in the 12B PIT. ["Poor Weather Queue"](#) programs are placed in 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 "any" (more than one magnitude 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.

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 GNIRS, NIRI and 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 classical nights on Subaru in exchange for classical nights with Gemini. The Subaru instruments currently available to the Gemini community are COMICS, FMOS, FOCAS, HDS, IRCS, MOIRCS and Suprime-Cam. In exchange, the Subaru community has access to both GMOS instruments (North and South), GNIRS, Michelle, NICI, NIRI, NIFS and T-ReCS. See the [Subaru call for proposals](#) for more information on applying for Gemini time through Subaru. The details of the amount of time currently available and other restrictions are provided in the [current call for proposals](#). In semester 2012B no Keck exchange time is offered.

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. Target of Opportunity programs do not need to define WFS stars. Starting in 2012B, the Phase 1 Tool will indicate the probability of there being a suitable WFS star for each observation. If the probability is low, then the target, conditions or configuration should be changed to allow guiding. [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.

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 2012B Phase I Tool will automatically search the Archive and indicate whether duplicates are found. If they are, clicking on the icon in the lower right of the Observations section of the tool will list the data found. 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.