

A. Education programme in *Astronomy* in the discipline of astronomy with English as a medium of instruction

Application requirements

The *Astronomy* programme at the Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences welcomes applicants holding a Master's degree, a Master of Engineering degree or an equivalent degree in exact and natural sciences or in engineering and technology.

In exceptional cases and taking into account scientific achievements of high quality, a person referred to in Article 186(2) of the Act, who does not hold a Master's degree and who is a graduate of the first-cycle study programme, or a student who has completed the third year of the long-cycle study programme but who has a student status in a field from among those indicated above or who has completed such studies, may also apply for admission to this programme.

In order to verify whether the condition referred to in Article 186(2) of the Act is met, the applicant is required to submit two opinions confirming high-quality research and the degree of progress to date of their research. These opinions are issued by scientific advisors holding a postdoctoral degree, or who are employees of a foreign university or scientific institution and who have outstanding achievements related to the programme in question.

The Director, in consultation with the chairperson of the admission committee, shall decide whether an applicant meets the condition referred to in Article 186(2) of the Act.

Admission criteria

The order of applicants on the ranking list is determined by their final numerical admission score, which is based on:

1. the grade average attained by the applicant in the first-cycle programme and the grades attained in the second-cycle programme excluding the final year of studies, calculated in compliance with the regulations of the university conducting the studies; in the case of the long-cycle programme, the grade average is calculated out of the grades attained for the first four years of studies according to the formula (0-50 points):

$$W_1 = \left(\frac{S_1}{S_{1Max}} \right) * 30 + \left(\frac{S_2}{S_{2Max}} \right) * 20$$

where:

W_1 is the grade point average,

S_1 is the grade average of the first-cycle programme,

S_{1Max} is the highest (the best) grade in the grading scale valid at the applicant's home university,

S_2 is the grade average of the second-cycle programme, without the grades attained in the final year,

S_{2Max} is the highest (the best) grade in the grading scale at the applicant's home university.

For applicants who have completed a long-cycle study programme, the grade average for the first four years of these studies S , is applied to the above formula, substituting it for each of the elements $S1$ and $S2$: $S1 = S2 = S$.

In the case of a grading system with decreasing grades for better performance, where the lowest grade is S^* and the highest grade is S^{**} , in the above formula, the corresponding average grade S_i ($i = 1, 2$) is substituted by the difference S^*-S_i , while S_{Max} is substituted by S^*-S^{**} .

2. A result of the admission interview W_2 expressed in points (0 – 50).

Admission procedure

Admission procedure consists of two stages.

Stage 1.

In the first stage, the committee awards points for the grade averages for the first-cycle programme $S1$ and the Master's degree programme $S2$ according to the formula given in point 1. To be permitted to Stage 2, all applicants must have an average of grades for each degree programme $S1/S1_{Max}$ and $S2/S2_{Max}$ calculated according to the above formula, at a level above the minimum value of 0.70. If one of these averages is lower, the applicant is not admitted to the interview (Stage 2). Also, this means allocating 0 points for W_2 ($W_2 = 0$) when determining the ranking list.

Stage 2. Admission interview

Before the interview, members of the admission committee read the documents submitted by the applicant, in particular the curriculum vitae, information on the results of examinations during the studies and (if available) a copy or a summary of the master's thesis.

During the interview, the committee may ask an applicant questions about: the subjects studied during studies, in particular astronomy (astrophysics, radio astronomy, cosmology), the course of studies, previous achievements including the results obtained in their master's project, and the scientific work and research they plan to carry out at the Doctoral School.

To evaluate all the answers, each member of the committee by the secret ballot assigns the applicant a score ranging from 0 to 50 points. The final score for the interview – W_2 is the arithmetic average of the scores offered by the committee members.

The interview may be held in Polish or English.

Calculating the admission results

A final result of the admission process W is a number calculated for all the applicants according to the formula:

$$W = W_1 + W_2$$

where:

W_1 is a calculated grade point average,

W_2 is a result of an admission interview.

The applicants with the highest W -scores, for whom the admission score is of 70.00 points and above are considered for admission to the *Astronomy* programme. Admission is determined by the position of the applicant on the ranking list taking into account the established number of places available for the programme.