

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) was founded in 1919. Its mission is to promote and safeguard the science of astronomy in all its aspects through international cooperation. Its individual members are professional astronomers all over the World, at the Ph.D. level or beyond and active in professional research and education in astronomy. However, the IAU maintains friendly relations also with organizations that include amateur astronomers in their membership. National Members are generally those with a significant level of professional astronomy. With now 9,040 [Individual Members](#) and 63 [National Members](#) worldwide, the IAU plays a pivotal role in promoting and coordinating worldwide cooperation in astronomy. The IAU also serves as the internationally recognized authority for assigning designations to celestial bodies and any surface features on them.

Membership in the International Astronomical Union is on the basis of either National Membership or Individual Membership. Individual Membership in the IAU is held through the National Adhering organization. In the case of Canada, the National Membership is exercised through the Canadian Committee for the IAU. The Board of the Canadian Astronomical Society functions as the Canadian Committee of the IAU. New members are admitted to the IAU every three years with the General Assembly and as the year 2006 is the XXVIth General Assembly in Prague there is a window in 2005 for new individual members to be admitted.

Canadian Professional Astronomers who would like to nominate potential new members of the IAU or who would like to seek nomination. Please note that Canadian applications for the IAU must go through the Canadian National Committee for the IAU (CNC/IAU). Nominations do not go directly to the IAU! The dues for Individual Canadian members are paid to the IAU by the NRC on behalf of the members from Canada.

As a general rule, Individual Membership in the IAU is open to scientists who have a PhD or equivalent in some branch of Astronomy and who have a record of independent research during some years after the PhD. For the official IAU statement on qualifications for membership please see:

<http://www.iau.org/IAU/Organization/member/applic.html>

Those who wish to apply for membership or to nominate a new member should download an application form that has been modified from an earlier IAU document.

<http://www.brandonu.ca/Physics/rice/distribution/IAUappl.htm>

The deadline mentioned in the form is the deadline for the Canadian Committee to forward the nomination to the IAU. To give time for the Canadian Committee to consider the applications the deadline for application to the Canadian Committee is set at October 14, 2005. The completed applications should be sent to:

Dr. John B. Rice  
Secretary of the Canadian Astronomical Society  
Department of Physics and Astronomy  
Brandon University  
Brandon, Manitoba  
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