

First Circular: XVIII Latin American Regional IAU Meeting 2026 (LARIM 2026)

The IAU is pleased to announce that the XVIII Latin American Regional IAU Meeting (LARIM 2026) will be held in Cancun, Mexico, from 30 November to 4 December 2026.

Held every three years, LARIM is the principal gathering of the Latin American astronomy and astrophysics community, bringing together researchers across countries, institutions, subfields, and career stages. LARIM 2026 will continue this tradition with a scientific program designed to highlight frontier, high-impact research carried out in Latin America, while fostering collaboration within the region and with the wider international community.

LARIM 2026 will showcase leading research in astronomy and astrophysics in Latin America, and promote scientific exchange and long-term collaboration across disciplines and borders. It will also support the training and mobility of graduate students through exchanges, internships, and scholarships. Finally, the meeting will provide a platform to strengthen initiatives that increase the participation, visibility, and leadership of women and underrepresented groups within the astronomical community.

LARIM has a long-standing history, beginning in Santiago de Chile in 1978 and continuing at regular intervals since then. The 2026 meeting will mark the fourth occasion on which Mexico hosts LARIM, following earlier editions in Mérida, Yucatán (1986), Tonantzintla, Puebla (1998), and Morelia, Michoacán (2010).

The meeting will be hosted at the Cancun Center, a modern convention venue located in the hotel zone and approximately 20 minutes from Cancún International Airport. Located on the Caribbean coast of the Yucatán Peninsula, Cancun provides a setting with a distinctive natural and cultural environment. Nearby archaeological sites bear witness to the astronomical tradition of the ancient Maya, who charted the sky with remarkable precision centuries before the modern era. The surrounding region is also characterized by extensive coral reef systems and networks of cenotes - natural sinkholes formed in limestone - that have long shaped both the local ecosystem and human settlements.

Important dates

- April 15, 2026 — Registration, abstract submission, and fee payment open
- July 1, 2026 — Abstract submission deadline
- August 15, 2026 — Notification of selected talks and posters
- August 21, 2026 — Deadline for IAU travel grant requests (for students and early-career researchers)
- August 31, 2026 — Payment deadline (fee increase after this date)
- September 12, 2026 — Deadline for visa assistance requests
- October 20, 2026 — Deadline for late fee payment
- November 29, 2026 — Onsite check-in and welcome reception
- November 30, 2026 — Conference starts

- December 4, 2026 — Conference ends

Registration fees

The registration fees include full access to the conference venue, welcome reception, welcome pack, coffee breaks, and proceedings.

Standard registration:

Fee (until 31 Aug, 2026, 23:59 CST): \$US410 (€350)

Late fee (after 1 September, 2026, 00:00 CST): \$US450 (€380)

Student registration:

Fee (until 31 August, 2026, 23:59 CST): \$US260 (€220)

Late fee (after 1 September, 2026, 00:00 CST): \$US300 (€250)

Scientific Organizing Committee (in alphabetical order)

- Vladimir Avila-Reese, IA-UNAM, Mexico (co-Chair)
- Paula Benaglia, IAR (CONICET-UNLP-CICPBA), Argentina
- Rosa A. González-Lópezlira, IRyA-UNAM, Mexico (co-Chair)
- Elisabete de Gouveia Dal Pino, IAG-USP, Brazil
- Mario A. Higuera Garzón, OAN-Colombia, Colombia
- Viviana V. Guzmán, IA-PUC, Chile
- Iván Lacerna, INCP-UDA, Chile
- Cristina H. Mandrini, IAFE (UBA-CONICET), Argentina
- Cecilia Mateu, FC-U. de la República, Uruguay
- Kepler Oliveira, IF-UFRGS, Brazil
- Gisela Ortiz-León, INAOE, Mexico

Local Organizing Committee (in alphabetical order)

- Vladimir Avila-Reese, IA-UNAM
- Miguel Chávez Dagostino, INAOE
- Alfredo Díaz Asuara, IA-UNAM
- Rosa A. González-Lópezlira, IRyA-UNAM (co-Chair)
- Omaira González-Martín, IRyA-UNAM
- Eric Jiménez, IRyA-UNAM
- Anna Lia Longinotti, IA-UNAM
- Tania Martínez, former director of the "Planetario de Cancún"
- René A. Ortega Minakata, IRyA-UNAM
- Gisela Ortiz-León, INAOE
- Angeles Pérez-Villegas, IA-UNAM (co-Chair)
- Mónica Rodríguez, INAOE
- Joel Sánchez-Bermudez, IA-UNAM
- José A. Vázquez-Mata, IA-UNAM
- Olga Vega, INAOE
- J. Omar Yam Gamboa, U. de Quintana Roo

Links

LARIM 2026: <https://sites.google.com/astro.unam.mx/larim2026/>