

Gemini proposal assignment

For this assignment you will be preparing a complete proposal for the Gemini telescope on an instrument of your choice. You will need to write both a science and technical justification and complete all parts of the Gemini proposal template, including exposure time estimates and instrument set-up. For choice of targets and instruments you should assume that the proposal is to be submitted for the 2018B semester (Aug 1 2018 – Jan 1 2019).

To prepare a proposal, you will need to install the Gemini Phase I Proposal Tool (PIT):

<http://www.gemini.edu/sciops/observing-gemini/proposal-submission/phase-i-tool-pit>

Do not try and actually submit your proposal through the PIT! Once you have completed the proposal, save it as a pdf and email it to Sara before the deadline (March 1).

Science case: You are welcome to discuss with colleagues an idea for a science case. Although the idea might be based on a suggestion from someone else, the text for the science justification must be yours.

Technical case: You need to convince the assessor that your science is feasible with the instrument you have chosen and for the particular targets you have identified.

Tips for a good science/technical justification:

- 1) Give a brief pre-ambule on the topic in general terms to set the stage for your proposal – your proposal will be read by astronomers who are not necessarily experts in your field.
- 2) State the problem you would like to solve/question you would like to answer and why this is an important contribution to the field. Be clear and concise. In a real TAC situation, assessors read up to 100 proposals – waffly proposals will not make an impact.
- 3) Choose targets that are feasible, e.g. correct hemisphere, RA range, magnitude etc.
- 4) Ask someone else to read and comment on your proposal – do they find it clear and compelling?
- 5) Make sure you use good English, punctuation and check for typos. Even first-rate science will suffer at the hand of a sloppy writer.

Assessment: This assignment will be marked by Sara and Steph Cote (who will assess your science and technical cases, respectively). You will be assessed on:

- A) The clarity of your writing and compelling communication of your science case.
- B) The appropriate choice of instrument, settings and conditions (e.g. IQ, moon phase etc.) to achieve your stated science goal.
- C) Your assessment of the technical feasibility of your program, correct exposure time calculations, appropriate instrument settings.