



# Competition Rules for Preliminares de PLANCKS 2026

Grupo de Estudiantes  
Real Sociedad Española de Física

Last update: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

These are the Rules that apply in Preliminares de PLANCKS 2026, the ninth edition of the Preliminares de PLANCKS organized by Grupo de Estudiantes de la Real Sociedad Española de Física.

For updated information, please visit: [estudiantes.rsef.es/PreliminaresPLANCKS2026/](http://estudiantes.rsef.es/PreliminaresPLANCKS2026/)

## 1 Definitions

1. **Preliminares de PLANCKS 2026:** A theoretical physics competition, aimed at teams of 3 to 4 bachelor and master's students.
2. **PLANCKS:** An international theoretical physics competition organized by the International Association of Physics Students (IAPS). The 2026 edition will take place in Eindhoven between the 21st and 25th of May.
3. **Organisation:** The Organising Committee of Preliminares de PLANCKS 2026, established by the Board of the Grupo de Estudiantes de la Real Sociedad Española de Física.
4. **Venue:** Each of the locations where the competition will take place must be associated with a university. Permission from the Organisation is required for venues outside the Spanish territory.
5. **Team:** Each of the teams registered to participate in the Preliminares de PLANCKS 2026.
6. **Participant:** Each member of a participating Team.
7. **Supervisor:** Each person registered to serve as a supervisor in Preliminares de PLANCKS 2026 and meeting the requirements for such a role.
8. **Academic Committee:** A group of physics professors who serve in Preliminares de PLANCKS 2026 as writers of the problems and graders of the teams' resolutions. Its composition is kept secret until after the day of the competition.
9. **Website:** The Preliminares de PLANCKS 2026 website will display the most updated information at all times. The website is [estudiantes.rsef.es/PreliminaresPLANCKS2026/](http://estudiantes.rsef.es/PreliminaresPLANCKS2026/).

## 2 Competition Rules

### 2.1 Basic rules

1. All participants must agree to abide by these rules.
2. All participants must accept the Supervision Actions informed in section [3](#) of this document.
3. The language used in both the preliminary and international competition is English.
4. Teams can consist of 3 to 4 bachelor/master students.
5. Teams must register for Preliminares de PLANCKS 2026 via the link specified on the website before Friday, 27th February 2026 at 23:59 (GMT+1)<sup>1</sup>.
6. Teams will be assigned a venue associated with one of the universities where its participants study.
7. The organization may change a team's venue due to supervisor unavailability or upon the team's approved request.
8. The competition will take place on **Friday, 6th March 2025, from 16:00 to 19.00 (GMT+1)**.
9. In case of overlapping with another major event at a given Venue and/or absolute inability of classrooms and supervisor, participants may contact the Organisation to find a new time slot to hold the competition. This new time slot will, in no case, differ from the previously specified one by more than 1 hour and must be approved by the organisation.
10. The building and classroom where the competition will take place will be communicated to the participants via email.
11. The competition consists of 8 short exercises<sup>2</sup>, each worth 10 points.
12. The competition exercises are designed by the members of the Academic Committee and are kept secret until the day of the competition.
13. All exercises must be solved on the official pieces of paper provided with the exam. Each exercise must be handed separately, i.e. no piece of paper shall contain the resolution of more than one problem.
14. The header of the resolution sheets must be filled with the name of the team, problem and sheet number. No other personal information about the team members shall be written in the upper right corner of each page of the exercises, such as the name of the university. **Violating this rule could result in the team being disqualified.**
15. The only official way of communication is via email using the following address: [estudiantes@rsef.es](mailto:estudiantes@rsef.es).  
**All the relevant information regarding the competition will be communicated to the participants using this email address and this email address only.**

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<sup>1</sup>Exception can be made up to decision of the Organizing Committee

<sup>2</sup>Depending on the decision of the Academic Committee, the number of exercises may slightly change, but it will never exceed 10 exercises.

16. Our social media profiles may be used as a supporting, secondary way of communication. Information coming from other sources different from the aforementioned email address or our official social media must not be trusted.
17. The organisation has the right to disqualify teams for misbehaviour or violation of the rules.
18. In situations where no rule applies, the organisation decides.

## 2.2 Before the exam

1. All participants must be in the classroom where the competition will take place at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the exam.
2. **All participants must bring their student ID.**
3. The Supervisor will print and distribute the exam, as well as the official pieces of paper for resolution, to the participants.
4. If not all participants are present on time, it is up to the participants who are present to decide whether to compete. Late participants may join their team within the first 30 minutes of the competition.
5. If a team is not present within the first 30 minutes of the competition, it is **automatically disqualified**.

## 2.3 During the exam

1. The only hardware to be used during the exam is a scientific non-programmable calculator. The use of any other hardware (including phones, computers, tablets, etc.) is strictly forbidden and is **motive for automatic expulsion**. Exceptions will be made for medical equipment.
2. No books or any other paper-based information sources are to be consulted during the competition.
3. Participants can ask their Supervisor for an English to Spanish translation of any wording that they might not understand.
4. Participants can only communicate with their Supervisor and members of their team. Communicating with any other person is strictly forbidden and might be **motive for automatic expulsion**.
5. In order to avoid leaking, no participant shall leave their classroom before one hour has passed from the beginning of the competition in all places.

## 2.4 After the exam

1. Once the exam is over, teams will hand their solutions to their Supervisor. They will have 5 minutes for that.
2. **Remember that each exercise must be solved in a separate set of papers, and no other personal information should be written in the resolutions.**

### **3 Supervision Actions**

Any Supervisor may, at any time from the beginning of the exam until solutions have been delivered by all teams, ask any participant to:

- Show their student ID and/or national ID.
- Show what they are writing.

None of the previous actions will need to be grounded in a suspicious behavior for the Supervisor to ask for them. In fact, Supervisors will randomly carry them out in order to guarantee the correct supervision of the Preliminares de PLANCKS 2026.

### **4 Prizes**

1. The winning team of Preliminares de PLANCKS 2026 earns the right to represent Spain in PLANCKS 2026 in Eindhoven.
2. The right to represent Spain in PLANCKS 2026 may also be awarded to additional teams. This decision is made by the Organizing Committee of PLANCKS 2025 based on the number of teams participating in Preliminares de PLANCKS 2026. The allocation of these participation spots for PLANCKS 2026 will strictly adhere to the Preliminares de PLANCKS 2026 classification order.