Overview of the application form:

Below, you can already read all the questions you will be asked in the application form. This way, you can prepare the application before adding your answers to the form.

1. Basic Information
Your personal and contact information, as well as local background

Your full name -- If your naming culture has a last/family name and a first name, please write it as "<LASTNAME>, <First-name>", e.g., "JONES, Mary", otherwise follow your local naming conventions to write your full name

Email Address:

Your country and city of current residence. Write as "Country, City", e.g. "Netherlands, Amsterdam"

Your nationality (if you have multiple nationalities, you may give multiple, comma-separated, answers)

2. Educational Background
Here we ask for some summary information on your BSc and MSc degrees. You must already have completed a BSc degree but may still be in your MSc degree. If you are in the joint/combined BSc+MSc programme it must be at least 5 years, and we regard the first 3 as your BSc phase and the rest as your MSc phase.

BSc degree. Specify the degree topic name, the university at which you got it, and the city and country of that university. For example "Physics, Eötvös University, Budapest, Hungary".

Start and end year of your BSc degree, e.g. "2012-2015". The start year is when you first enrolled, the end year is when you got your BSc degree.

Up to 5 key BSc courses. Give at most five names of courses in your BSc that you found especially inspiring, important, or relevant to the ASPIRE programme.

MSc degree. Specify the degree topic name, the university at which you got it / are enrolled, and the city and country of that university. For example "Mechanical Engineering, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia".

Start and end year of your MSc degree, e.g. "2018-2019". The start year is when you first enrolled, the end year is when you got your MSc degree, or expect/plan to get it if you have not yet finished.

Up to 5 key MSc courses. Give at most five names of courses in your MSc that you found especially inspiring or important or relevant to the ASPIRE programme.

3. ASPIRE project topic preferences and presence
Please provide your preference for up to three project topics. List them below, starting with the topic you prefer most. The list of topics and details can be found here: https://aspire.science.uva.nl/projects.html

Topic preference 1:

Topic preference 2:

Topic preference 3:

Attendance to Program: Will you be able to attend the entire duration of the program (28 June to 6 August 2026)? Please tell us if you have other commitments during the program period.

4. Motivation and more detailed background

Previous project experience(s): Have you been involved in any research projects outside curriculum / study projects? Please list them and describe in detail how the project came about, if it was funded and if so, by whom etc.

CV: Please attach your CV here (pdf format, 1-3 pages). Please make sure that you name the CV document as fullname_CV.pdf, where fullname is your full name.

Motivation letter: Please attach a motivation letter (2 pages maximum and not more than 1500 words). Here you can tell us why you think would be a good candidate for the ASPIRE programme. Please make sure that you name the document as fullname_motivationletter.pdf, and replace fullname with your full name.

Please tell us about your coding experience:

5. Background Questions
Here we ask some questions about your background. There are no right or wrong answers, and you do not have to answer if you do not feel comfortable doing so.

Please describe briefly your English proficiency level (both written and spoken English).

Do you consider yourself a minority with respect to the field of astronomy? You can consider any aspect of your identity, including but not limited to: gender, ethnic identity, LGBTQIAP+ identity, socioeconomic status, refugee status, and country of origin.

A key objective of ASPIRE is to improve opportunities to pursue a career in astrophysics, in particular for talented students whose current circumstances hamper them in achieving this goal. More details about these goals are listed on the main ASPIRE website.

Here, we offer you the space to reflect on how this goal of ASPIRE connects to your own ambitions, and challenges that you experience in your academic studies and goals. (maximum 250 words; you can elaborate further in your motivation letter).