



International School
for Advanced Studies

Scuola Internazionale
Superiore di Studi Avanzati

The International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA)

in Trieste is one of the most prestigious institutions for research and higher education in Europe. The School offers PhD courses in the fields of Physics, Mathematics and Neuroscience and our scientists produce an impressive amount of quality and interdisciplinary research. Many of the scientific papers written by researchers at SISSA are published in internationally renowned journals with a high impact factor, such as *Nature* and *Science*. This high level of productivity is particularly impressive since it is carried out in a relatively small university, with a faculty of approximately 65 professors, 50 post-doctoral fellows and 230 PhD students.

Students have described SISSA as “a place where scientific excellence in the various subfields and cultural diversity are not only in harmony with each other but also complement and support each other; a place where you learn progressive thinking in all aspects of life; a place where ideas are born, and then critically examined and evaluated; a place where you are encouraged to imagine that which does not yet exist.”



Research

SISSA has the highest number of top scientists of any Italian university; in the latest evaluation of the Italian university system (CIVR) it was judged the most outstanding small research center for Physics and Mathematics and the second in Biology. The doctoral courses and research projects are coordinated by scientists of international prestige. SISSA professors have received honorary degrees from renowned foreign universities, been awarded prestigious scientific prizes and been elected to prestigious scientific academies.

Furthermore, each year researchers working at SISSA successfully bid for important international or Italian research grants: for example, in 2010 SISSA scientists were awarded two ERC Advanced Grants and a grant from the Russian Federation, totalling about six million Euros, and in 2011 research grants have totalled over seven million Euros.





Training

SISSA guarantees its PhD students a rigorous and thorough training, in an international environment that stimulates study, experimentation and research. All teaching is carried out in English. After a brief initial phase of immersion in didactic courses, the students join the research groups of their choice and are encouraged to follow an independent line of research. The scientific development of the students is favoured by their participation in seminars, workshops and conferences, and by daily contact with high-level visiting researchers from all over the world.

Thanks to our collaboration with the many high quality scientific institutions in Friuli Venezia Giulia, and with prestigious universities throughout the world, students at SISSA are already at the heart of an international scientific community.

These features mean that once students complete their studies at SISSA, they can choose from among a wide range of employment opportunities: a large majority of our students have reached positions of importance in the academic world, in finance and in business.



Facilities

SISSA is situated on a beautiful modern campus overlooking the Adriatic Sea and has its own park with over 100,000 square metres of woodland. On campus, there is a large restaurant, a children's nursery, a gymnasium, and meditation and music rooms. Students have access to an excellent library which is open 24 hours a day and each student has their own desktop computer with access to a huge range of computing and internet resources.

Moreover, SISSA students receive support in finding accommodation in the city from the housing service and a monthly contribution from the School towards the rent. Students from non-European Union countries have their enrolment in the Italian national health service reimbursed.

Female students receive a contribution during their maternity leave. Students are awarded scholarships for the entire duration of their training programmes.





Recruitment

Outstanding students with a good undergraduate degree, initiative, independence and an enquiring mind, are warmly encouraged to join our scientific community.

PhD Fellowship and Benefits

- » Fellowship 1130 € net per month
- » Award for the best PhD thesis (1000 €)
- » Housing allowance (100 € gross per month)
- » Contribution to laptop (up to 400 €)
- » For non-EU: contribution to the health insurance system
- » Contribution of 500 € towards the cost of one return trip to their home country
- » Maternity leave
- » Italian courses for foreign students
- » English courses
- » Housing service
- » Music and meditation rooms
- » SISSA gymnasium
- » SISSA kindergarten
- » Large park for walks.

Other fellowships

- » Research training fellowships for undergraduate students (up to 1000 €)
- » Research training fellowships for postgraduate students (up to 1000 € net per month plus travel expenses).

