



PRESS RELEASE

Student day at SISSA: discovering science



The event that opens the doors of the Trieste institute to hundreds of students is coming back on Wednesday 21st February. Lots of activities have been planned to explain research in a fun and engaging way

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"Why $2+2$ doesn't always add up to 4" but also "How is the brain formed?". And again, "How vaccines have changed the world", "From mind-reading to quantum mechanics" up to "The Mathematics of Love". SISSA (Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati) has put together a rich programme of events for the fourth edition of the Student Day. Thanks to the morning-long initiative, students in the final two year period of high school in Friuli Venezia Giulia and Veneto can discover science, its challenges, mysteries and curiosities. Students and teachers, together with SISSA researchers, will be the protagonists of a unique experience, in



which the key elements will be knowledge, ideas, exchange of concepts and opinions, informality. After the welcome speech held in SISSA's main lecture hall, there will be the inauguration of a plaque in honour of Giulio Regeni.

Interactive lessons, seminars, exhibitions, interviews with scientists and games are just some of the activities scheduled for the morning of Student Day 2018. The day will start at 9 am in the institute's main lecture hall with the welcome speech by SISSA director Professor Stefano Ruffo. The inauguration of a plaque in honour of Giulio Regeni, Italian PhD student of Cambridge University killed in Egypt in 2016 will follow, with speeches by two students of the Institute, Carlotta Bon and Chiara Santulli. Simona Cerrato, the event coordinator, will describe the day's programme and, after that, the scientific adventure for students will begin.

There is no pre-established route to follow, but rather plenty of different options to choose from in total freedom, following personal inclinations. A few examples among the many possibilities? For those who love flying, the mathematician Andrea Mola will talk about the flight of the Albatross, "the world's largest bird, a virtually perfect flying machine. Using simple formulae and examples we will explain the principles of the mechanics of soaring mastered so skilfully by this bird". For cooking enthusiasts, the neuroscientist Marinella Aiello will talk about how our brain guides our food choices. **For those who don't know how condensed matter physics helps give sweets those delicious colours, Mariam Rusishvili will be ready to explain it in her speech entitled "Colors in science".** For those who want to tackle controversial issues with an important social impact, a space will be dedicated to "discussion games", interesting tools designed to promote discussion and the exchange of ideas on specific themes. This year topic? "Superwomen and supermen? Is it legitimate to use drugs and technologies to improve body and mind?".

Several of the activities will be held in English by foreign researchers working at SISSA like Chris Mathys, who will hold a seminar entitled "Your brain makes predictions and sometimes they are wrong". The offer will be enriched by the exhibition entitled "The history of the Universe at a glance" which will transform the long corridor of the sixth floor of SISSA into a 15-stage journey through the vastness of cosmic time. Finally, with a visit to the laboratories (booking is required) students can experience the world of cognitive neuroscience, neurobiology and genomics. The students of the Masters in Science Communication "Franco Prattico" of SISSA will also take part in the different activities.



"Student day is now in its fourth edition, following the success of the previous editions. Each time, for an entire morning, the breath of energy and curiosity brought by these students opens the doors of SISSA wide. The entire Institute is involved in this initiative - students, scientific and administrative staff - all ready to tell and share, and to communicate the enthusiasm and beauty of working in the research field" SISSA director Stefano Ruffo commented. **The previous editions had such phenomenal success that bookings for the 2018 edition were sold out in just two hours!**

Student day 2018 is part of "SISSA per la Scuola" (SISSA for School), the weekly activity of visits and meetings which are held throughout the year with the goal of promoting scientific culture and making the activity of the institute known to younger people. "SISSA per la Scuola" is an activity organised by SISSA Medialab in association with a large number of PhD students and researchers of the Institute.

LINKS:

- Programme: goo.gl/t6SnnK
- Sissa per la scuola: <http://medialab.sissa.it/sissaperlascuola/>
- SISSA for schools on Facebook: <https://goo.gl/6mNLrc>

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