

PRESS RELEASE

500 visitors come to discover science at the SISSA Student Day!

Women in science, the new space race, the mysteries of maths, virtual visits, the physics of complexity, cognitive neuroscience and neurobiology workshops. And much, much more. Hundreds of students from all over Italy will be saving the date of 25 February when they'll be meeting the School's researchers for a day of online seminars, quizzes, interviews, games and chats. The event will open with a welcome from the Regeni family



Trieste, 21 February 2022

More than 500 students in the last two years of study at high schools from 29 class groups at schools in Trieste, Gemona del Friuli, Torino, Udine, Colferro, Ostuni, San Daniele del Friuli, Brescia and Monfalcone are all getting ready to dive into a world of fascinating subjects. Topics include: maths as you might not have seen it before; the challenges of scientific journalism; a virtual tour of a neurobiology lab; the technological conquest of space, and even the theme of complex physical systems, which was one of the topics of the 2021 Nobel Prize for Physics and the award presented to Italian physicist Giorgio Parisi. There'll also be a big focus on the very important topic of women in science, with a quiz game "SciENZA donne: il quiz" and related discussion session "SciENZA donne: parliamone".



9:15 a.m. on 25 February is the start time for the return of SISSA's traditional "[Student Day](#)", which offers a packed programme. The online format will be heavily interactive and brimming with ideas, chats, discussions, quizzes, interviews, fun and games. Director of SISSA, Andrea Romanino will start the day with a welcome address.

Paola Deffendi and Claudio Regeni, the parents of Giulio Regeni, will also be online with a message for the young visitors of the Student Day and the SISSA researchers. The Student Day is part of "[SISSA for schools](#)", a project launched by SISSA Medialab, which for many years has put state schools of all levels in direct contact with the School's scientific staff.

A whole host of things to discover!

The students will be free to choose their own programme for the day, from a series of parallel events starting at 9.00 a.m. and running until 1.30 p.m. The morning's session will include "interactive seminars", giving students insight into "current research topics, the unexpected face of modern science, and everything your textbooks don't tell you". Another session, titled "Researching from dusk to dawn", is designed to give the visitors an idea of what scientists actually do. For those wanting to find out more about maths and its many fascinating declinations, a real highlight will be "Mathematics. From theory to application, and back again". Inspired by the 2021 Nobel Prize for Physics, "It's a complex world!" will discuss the science of complexity applied to different contexts from weather forecasting to pandemic trends. "The cognitive neuroscience lab" will open with a meta-cognition experiment that the students will be able to take part in, online, by 18 February. The results will be presented at the Student Day along with an activity designed to show how scientists study the human brain. "Who does the sky belong to?" will discuss the new space race: an issue that's not just about technology but is also political and social. The "Neurobiology lab" virtual tour will take visitors on a discovery of in vitro cell and tissue cultures, so they can learn how researchers study nerve cells. The session "Why do journalists find it hard to write about science?" will discuss the issues involved in writing about the world of modern research.

Creative recreation!

There will also be a mid-morning "Science Break" between the first and second half of the day's programme, full of more intriguing activities. "Quantum ne sai?" ("How much do you know?") will be a live interactive science quiz designed by SISSA, during which a team of the School's researchers will be challenged to answer questions about physics, maths and neuroscience, with the audience on hand to help them if they get stuck. "Ask Me Anything" will be an opportunity for

visitors to grill researchers from diverse fields at different stages in their career. “The social side of science” will be an interactive session all about what we follow and what we should be following, as visitors discover the power of sharing knowledge through social media. Meanwhile a virtual tour will take the visitors on a simulated walk through SISSA. For fun and a bit of physical activity, there’s even the “Self-defence with Broomsticks” course. “Phereclos: towards the school of the future” will present a European open schooling project that offers new opportunities for dialogue with research centres, local communities, associations and policymakers.

Speaking of women in science

During the Science Break, there’ll be two activities on the topic of “Women in science”. “SciENZA donne: il quiz” is a question game that students can take part in throughout the morning of the Student Day. The 10 highest scores will receive a copy of the book “Trieste e la scienza”. Meanwhile the second activity, entitled “SciENZA donne: parliamone” will be a discussion about gender equality in scientific careers. Both these discussions will be sponsored by SISSA’s Equal Opportunities Committee.

SISSA Director’s welcome

Professor Andrea Romanino, Director of the School, talks about the event: “Once again this year, the Student Day is offering a packed programme of events that will give students authentic virtual insight into science and give them the opportunity to meet the people who study it, expanding their horizons every day with their leading-edge research. It is a programme designed to stimulate the students’ intellectual curiosity: the same curiosity that underpins and nourishes scientific progress”.

The welcome address and Science Dialogues to be streamed on YouTube

The Student Day is a sell-out once again this year and is reserved for the class groups that booked the event via the SISSA for Schools programme. Welcome address and Science Dialogues “Mathematics. From theory to application, and back again. (10 a.m.)” and “It’s a complex world!” (12 noon) will be accessible to everyone on [SISSA’s YouTube channel](#). [Here’s the link to sign up to the “SISSA for Schools” newsletter](#) and keep abreast of all the educational activities organised by SISSA.

USEFUL LINKS

Student day’s website

SISSA

Scuola Internazionale

CONTACTS

Nico Pitrelli

SISSA

Scuola
Internazionale
Superiore di
Studi Avanzati

IMAGE

Image by Lorenzo Peter Castelletto

Superiore di Studi Avanzati
Via Bonomea 265, Trieste
W www.sissa.it

Facebook, Twitter
[@SISSASchool](#)

→ pitrelli@sissa.it
T +39 040 3787462
M +39 339 1337950

Chiara Saviane
→ saviane@sissa.it
T +39 040 3787230
M +39 333 7675962