



The AstroMundus International Master Programme

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on behalf of the
AstroMundus Consortium



Co-funded by
the European Union





AstroMundus

Erasmus+: Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degree programme in Astronomy and Astrophysics

- 2-years Master Course open to top-ranked students of any nationality
- Countries: Austria, Germany, Italy, and Serbia
- Coordinating University: Innsbruck
- Partner Universities: Belgrade, Göttingen, Padova, Rome Tor Vergata
- Associated Partners: Astronomical Observatory of Belgrade, Gran Sasso Science Institute, INAF-Astronomical Observatories of Padova and Rome
- 1st Edition in 2010 within Erasmus Mundus 2009-2013 programme, now continuing within Erasmus+ for the next 3 editions (Ed. 6 to 8)
- Scholarships available for highest ranked students and guest scholars



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www.astromundus.eu



The AstroMundus Programme

The Course relies on the long-standing expertise and **full involvement** of all 5 participating Universities and the active contribution of the associated partner research institutions.

A key element is the **synergy** between the consortium Universities that act jointly in defining and developing all aspects of the course.

The **variety of expertise** present in the AstroMundus Consortium results in an increased offer of pathways for the students, spanning most branches of Astronomy and Astrophysics in the theoretical, observational, and computational domains.

Such a **complete offer** in the fast growing field of Astrophysics is **unique** at the European level (and beyond).



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Main Objectives

- Providing top-ranked students with an excellent background in Astrophysics
- Introducing the students to modern astrophysical research by training them to exploit ground-based and space-based instrumentation, data archives, and state-of-the-art supercomputers
- Integrating the students in the international scientific community and fostering their future career in this field
- Promote cultural exchanges between non-EU and EU students and academics



Student selection

- On-line application at www.astromundus.eu from August through November each year
- Selection Committee: one member per participating University
- Joint selection criteria and joint screening of applications: only highly qualified students are selected for participation.
- Formal screening of applications by Admission Department
- Final ranking of the selected students by the Selection Committee for the assignment of available scholarships that are co-funded by the European Union and the AstroMundus Consortium



Structure of the Master Programme

- 4 semesters of studies (min. 120 ECTS points) and yearly joint retreat with all participants
- Intensive tutoring of students. Courses are taught in English
- Entrance University: Innsbruck
- Mobility: Students carry on their studies in at least 2 and up to 4 different institutions. Mobility of lecturers between partner institutes and international guest lecturers add value to the course
- Master thesis: Joint supervision between different partner institutions is promoted
- Final degree: Joint Master degree (MSc) awarded by all Universities where students carried out part of their Master studies, plus Diploma Supplement



Semester organisation

	1 st term	2 nd term	3 rd term	4 th term
Innsbruck	X			X
Padova		X		X
Rome		X	X	X
Göttingen			X	X
Belgrade			X	X
maximum fraction of students per site	n.a.	60%	40%	25%

Some example paths

Innsbruck → Rome

Innsbruck → Rome → Rome → Innsbruck

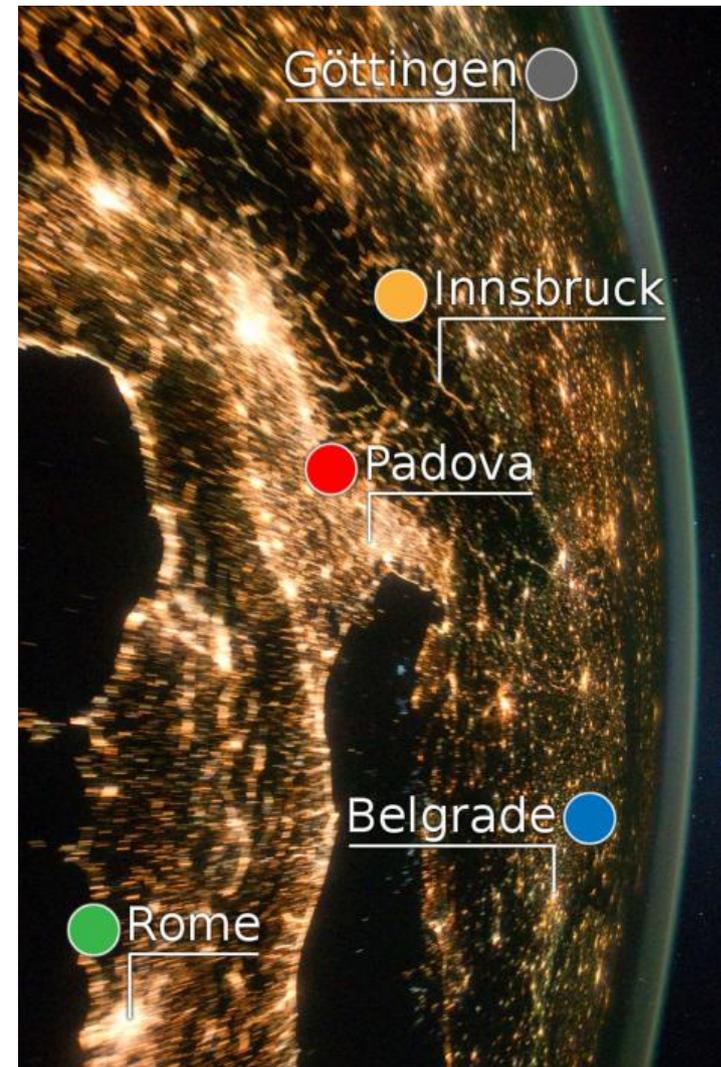
Innsbruck → Padua → Belgrade → Innsbruck

Innsbruck → Padua → Göttingen → Göttingen

Innsbruck → Rome → Göttingen → Padua

Innsbruck → Padua → Göttingen → Belgrade

Innsbruck → Rome → Belgrade → Göttingen



Outcome

- Participants until the present:
3 completed editions for a total of 39 successfully graduated students,
2 ongoing editions for a total of 35 currently enrolled students
Students have come from 41 different Countries.
- Involved guest scholars: 11 non-EU and 3 EU (repeated visits)
- Alumni: Out of the 39 graduated students, 33 are currently enrolled in PhD programmes in Europe and in the USA.
Some of the current students have already been accepted for PhD

Future

Three course editions to come: AstroMundus successfully passed a quality review by the Executive Agency of the European Commission and was recently approved for renewal under the Erasmus+ programme.

