



**The International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA)**<sup>1</sup> in Trieste is one of the most prestigious institutions for research and higher education in Italy and the world. The School offers PhD courses in the fields of physics, mathematics and the neurosciences and is characterized by a prolific and interdisciplinary scientific production of the highest quality. Many of the scientific papers written by researchers at SISSA are

published in internationally renowned journals with 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, composed of about 65 professors, 50 post-doctoral fellows and 230 PhD students.

**Research:** SISSA is the leading Italian university in terms of the density of top scientists<sup>2</sup>; in the latest evaluation of the Italian university system (CIVR) it was judged as the most exciting of the small research centers in Italy in physics and mathematics and came second in biology. The doctoral courses and research projects are coordinated by scientists of international prestige. Several SISSA professors have received honorary degrees from renowned foreign universities, have been awarded prestigious scientific prizes and have been elected to prestigious scientific academies<sup>3</sup>.



Furthermore, each year researcher workers at SISSA win important international or Italian funding (grants): for example, in 2010 two ERC Advanced Grants and a Grant from the Russian Federation were received for a total of about six million euros.



**Training:** SISSA guarantees its PhD students a rigorous and thorough training, in an international environment that is favourable for studying, 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 acquire an independent line of research. The

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<sup>1</sup> [www.sissa.it/main/](http://www.sissa.it/main/)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.via-academy.org/Italian\\_Scientists\\_and\\_Scholars\\_in\\_UK.aspx](http://www.via-academy.org/Italian_Scientists_and_Scholars_in_UK.aspx)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.sissa.it/main/?p=AWARDS>

scientific development of the students is favoured by their participation in important scientific events, such as seminars and workshops, and by daily contact with high-level visiting researcher workers from all over the world. Thanks to collaborations 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 offer students the possibility of choosing from among a wide range of employment opportunities: a large majority of ex-students have reached positions of high importance in the academic world, in finance and in business.

**Facilities:** People who study at SISSA, which is situated in the campus in Via Bonomea in a park of over 100,000 m<sup>2</sup>, have access to an excellent library which is open 24 hours a day; they have a computer at their disposal with which to connect to the huge resources for scientific computing and internet services; they receive support in finding accommodation in the city from the housing service and a monthly contribution from the School towards



the rent; on the campus they can find a restaurant, kindergarten, and meditation and music rooms. 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<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> [www.sissa.it/main/?p=COURSES\\_PHD](http://www.sissa.it/main/?p=COURSES_PHD)