



Summer School of Science

S^3 / S^{3++}

S^3 : 23rd July - 2nd August 2023

S^{3++} : 3rd - 13th August 2023

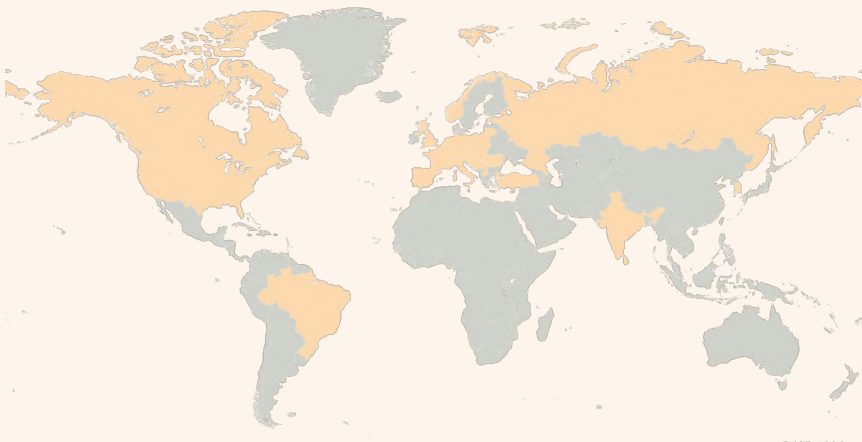
Požega, Croatia

What is the Summer School of Science?

The Summer School of Science is an **educational scientific program** targeted at highly motivated high school students. The main goal of the School is to give students an opportunity to work on real scientific projects and promote career paths related to the natural sciences.

The School is divided into **two camps** that take place in July and August each year. Around 50 students work in small groups of three or four people supervised by a mentor, usually a PhD student or a postdoctoral researcher.

Founded in 2001 in Višnja by a group of enthusiastic science educators, the School expanded to Požega in 2013 due to demand. It has an entirely **international character** and has hosted more than 300 students so far, from Croatia, Germany, France, Spain, Turkey, Lithuania, USA, Sri Lanka, Canada and many other countries.





What do we offer?



The School gives students an opportunity to participate in their very own research project, thus enabling them to directly experience what it is like to work as a scientist. By participating in the School, students meet and connect with people with similar interests, develop critical thinking, and learn how to communicate in a team environment and present their results to their peers.

Project leaders and lecturers, on the other hand, gain invaluable experience in project design and management. They expand their teaching and social skills, and learn to appreciate the importance of science popularization and work with young people.



Who recommends us?

The scientific projects done by the participants were outstanding, and I was impressed by how much they learned and what they were able to achieve. The excitement and pride in their eyes when they talked about their projects was the best testimony that the school successfully reached its goal to excite young people for science and show them they can do anything if they want to.

Prof. Dr. **IVO SBALZARINI**
Max Planck Institute Dresden,
Germany



Perhaps the most impressive thing about the Summer School of Science is its longevity and continuity. It's clear that the idea is good and strong, so that over the years the baton of organisation has passed seamlessly from hand to hand down generations of graduate students and there is great loyalty and support from alumni and past mentors. I'm sure that the experience of the Summer School makes a deep impression on its alumni. I was certainly impressed by the whole thing!

Sir **TIM HUNT** PhD FRS
Cancer Research UK,
UK



The school is teaching that curiosity is important, and crucially, how the scientific method proceeds. This is creating a generation of scientifically literate individuals, something I can only support and applaud. I sincerely hope the school carries on for many more years!

Prof. Dr. **AMAURY TRIAUD**
University of Birmingham,
UK



Who recommends us?

I have been following the program of the Summer School for several years now, since I have participated three times as a guest lecturer and I can openly say that it represents one of the most dynamic and advanced science programs for gifted students, not only in Croatia but also on an international level as well.

Prof. Dr. **BOJAN ŽAGROVIĆ**
Max Perutz Laboratories Vienna,
Austria



Small scale it might be, but it is impressively intense and effective. I hope funds are made available for its continuation, for it is a jewel among all the laudable efforts to encourage the young into science.

Prof. Dr. **PETER ATKINS**
University of Oxford,
UK



There was a great spirit of sharing and comradeship within each of the groups and friendly rivalry with other groups. The overall atmosphere was friendly and intellectually stimulating and I'm sure most of the participants leave the school with fond memories of a most enjoyable episode. Many will also, surely, build on this experience and use it to guide a future career in science.

Prof. Dr. **DENNIS BRAY**
University of Cambridge,
UK



... and more on drustvo-evo.hr/s3/press

Who are our participants?



Participants of the Summer School are highly motivated high school students from all over the world. Through practical work on their projects, they develop the foundations of scientific literacy and a world-wide network of contacts with experts and peers of similar interests. These are the key factors that can influence their future educational and career paths.



Testimonials

The Summer School of Science is a place where enthusiasm meets knowledge and creativity. There is no better feeling than the feeling of freedom to ask, discover and learn while being accompanied with people of the same kind. The S3 impressed me one more time.

What makes us think light is a wave? Dora, Martina, Jovan and Tomislav got the chance to play with a laser and discover some of the phenomena in physical optics, such as diffraction, interference and polarization, and get a sense of how laws that govern those phenomena can be applied to calculate some cool stuff like distances between bits on a CD or between erythrocytes on coating.

TEA MUZIC, swapshop leader
University of Copenhagen, Denmark

S3 is a brilliant project for young people who have to decide about their further career. I learned so many things; in field of my scientific interests and in general. Beautiful young people, our project leaders and organizers, showed us that nothing is hard if you really want it. In 10 days, thanks to them, I realized that it is not only important to be a good scientist, than to be a good person. It was unforgettable experience and I am really grateful for being a part of it.

MARTINA MANENICA, 11th grade
Grammar School Metkovic, Croatia

Summer School of Science was one of the best experiences of my life! We always had fun and laughed through times where things went wrong or didn't work, but also celebrated times when things went as planned. All the people involved with the summer school were some of the nicest people I have ever met and always cared about answering our questions and making us feel comfortable, as well as making us laugh. I felt very welcome and accepted, especially when I had to leave early, but was allowed to continue working on the project online with my group and present during the final presentations. The summer school left me even more motivated to practice and learn about science and made me more confident in what I want to be in life.

GEA BOŠNJAK VRH, 11th grade
XVIII gymnasium Zagreb, Croatia

S3 is an extraordinary place where you can immerse yourself in interesting and challenging projects, learn a lot of new things and most importantly not only work but also spend your free time with peers which come from various places of the world and are highly motivated and united by passion for science. I have to say, S3 was the best experience in my life! There I not only gained new knowledge, had an opportunity to carry out a project, met many wonderful people, got lots of useful advice from projects/ swapshops leaders, experienced new things, but also found amazing friends. I'm happy I got an opportunity to participate!

KAROLINA GUZAUSKAITE, 10th grade
Kaunas University of Technology Gymnasium, Lithuania

I think there are no right words to express how much I liked S3. For 10 days I was surrounded by science and by people who love it as I do. Everything was organised perfectly to experience what being a scientist is like and how cool that is (even if it is a hard and sometimes weary work). In addition to all of the really interesting projects and lectures, I had the opportunity to know many brilliant and nice people, both students and project leaders. Maybe you think that 10 days is a bit too much but I can assure you that everyone I met there would have been enthusiastic to stay there more than those 10 days. It has been an awesome experience and I think that everyone interested in science would like it at least as much as I did.

FRANCESCO BONDINI, 11th grade
Calabrese-Levi, Italy

Summer School of Science gave me the opportunity to work so closely with so many successful scientists in such an early age, which is such a great and rare opportunity. Learning from them about science is great, but it's also wonderful to hear them talk about life, success and failures, and realize what are the things that really make somebody a leader in also a lot about teamwork and other cultures which were brought together based on common interests. It was great to meet so many, I could say, global peers who are all so ambitious and well rounded, possibly future leaders in science and I think that friendships and connections are a valuable thing the school brought us, and it will probably be a while before we realize the full impact it had on us.

TAMARA TICA, 11th grade
Grammar School Jovan Ducic, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Organizers in 2023

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S³++ camp



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