

# MASS E-NEWSLETTER

First Issue: October 29th 2022

## In this issue:

- Present status of MASS
- MASS Privacy Policies
- MASS Partnership Agreement
- Selection of the students for the first intake
- MASS Welcome days

## Present status of MASS

The European master MASS is now fully in place in the 4 partner universities. During the last six months the consortium has been active preparing the «Consortium Agreement» that will govern the status of the master program among the universities. This document has now been signed by all the rectors.

*MASS is an intersectoral, research-oriented Master program, covering state of the art research in six main pillars:*

- ◆ Gravitation and Cosmology
- ◆ Stellar Astrophysics
- ◆ Exoplanets
- ◆ Astrophysical Techniques
- ◆ Astrostatistics
- ◆ Big Data,
- ◆ Space Science

## MASS Privacy Policies

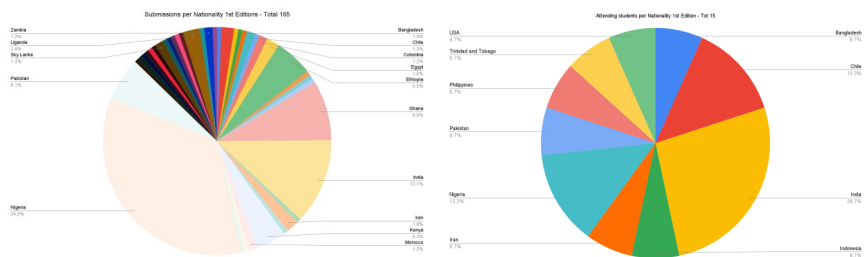
Special attention has been made concerning the exchange of data among the four countries in order to establish the rules to protect the data which can circulate from one university to the others. The Data Transfer Agreement document is currently under revision by the partners' Data Protection Officers.

## MASS Partnership Agreement

Among the other details, this document governs the transfer of funds from the pilot university UNITOV to the partner universities. It lists the different budgets. The transfer of funds is scheduled for the 12th September 2022.

## Selection of the students for the first intake

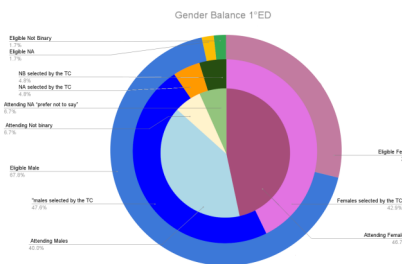
The first call for applications was open from 4th April until 6th June 2022. We received 165 applications from more than 50 countries. After rejecting those that were incomplete or failing to fit the MASS program, we reduced the number of valid applications to be evaluated to 58. The selection committee worked to rank them with a score depending on: academic achievements, CV and experience, quality of motivation letter, reference letters. We have put the limit for the selection to an overall score of 85/100. We selected 21 students for admission in the program. 16 were offered a scholarship, 4 were offered a fee-waiver and 1 was given the possibility to attend as a self-funded student. In total, 19 students will start the lectures on the 3rd October 2022.



MASS applicant nationalities (left), MASS student nationalities (right)

## MASS Welcome days

Edition-1 Welcome Days took place from 28th to 30th September at Villa Mondragone in Frascati with the participation of representatives of all MASS Consortium Universities. Students were welcomed by the Rectors/Presidents of the four Universities, the Director of the Physics Department of the University of Rome "Tor Vergata", the Project Officer at EACEA and the Program Coordinator. Two alumni from the AstroMundus program were invited to talk about their experience as former Erasmus Mundus students. Edition-1 students gave short presentations to introduce themselves. Presentations were given by all Partners and there was plenty of time for questions and informal discussions.



MASS applicant, eligible and select student gender balance study



Villa Mondragone is the largest and one of the most beautiful villas of Tusculanum. The monumental complex has been acquired in 1981 by the University of Rome Tor Vergata. Villa Mondragone over the course of its long history hosted important events. It was the residence of Popes and famous families of the ancient nobility and is now a congress center



Funded by the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or granting authority European