

# MASS e-NEWSLETTER

Second Issue: June 30th 2023

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## Present status of MASS

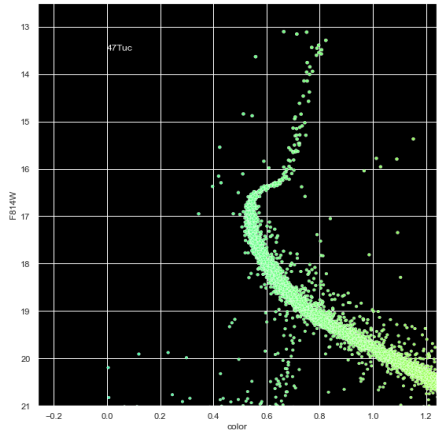
The Master MASS program has continued to deliver knowledge in Astrophysics during 2023. The program maintained its high level for combining theoretical knowledge with practical applications, preparing students for leadership roles in Astrophysics and Space Sciences.

### First Semester for the first edition

The first intake of students spent their first semester in Rome, providing for the majority of them a new rich cultural, personal and professional environment. Most of the students passed all of their exams the first time around.

## The Winter School

The First Winter School took place in Rome between the 16th and 18th of January 2023 at the ASI Headquarters and at the University of Rome "Tor Vergata". It focussed on Astrostatistics and Big Data, with invited external speakers from the Italian Space Agency (ASI) Space Science Data Center, and more professors from the partner universities (e.g. A. Chiavassa, M.A. Bizouard, V. Fafone, F. Muleri). The school comprised both theoretical lectures and hands-on sessions.



A Hertzsprung-Russell diagram of 47Tuc globular cluster plotted from actual data during the Winter School

## First intake of students to partner universities in S2

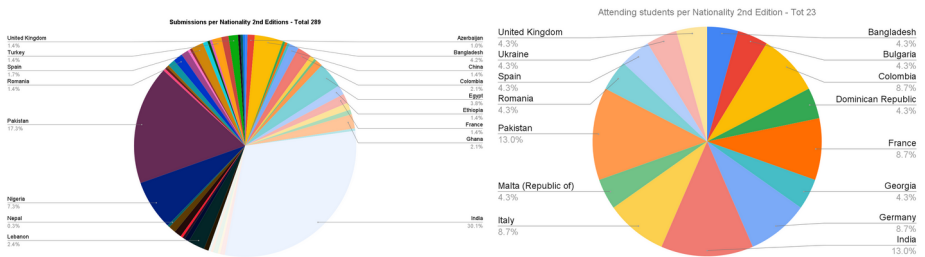
For the first time, Belgrade, Bremen and Nice universities received their first intake of S2 students. In Nice, a Welcome Day was organized on March 4th 2023, to present the observatory, the university campus, and to meet new teachers and other students. The Welcome Day on 6th March at the University of Belgrade was followed by a guided tour of the Astronomical Observatory and, later on in the semester, of the Laboratory for Plasma Physics within the Faculty of Physics.

## Consortium Meetings

Several Consortium, Committee, and working group virtual meetings took place during the year to discuss how to deal with non-homogeneous administrative and teaching rules between the Consortium Universities and to further refine the adopted eligibility criteria for the selection of students.

## Second intake of students

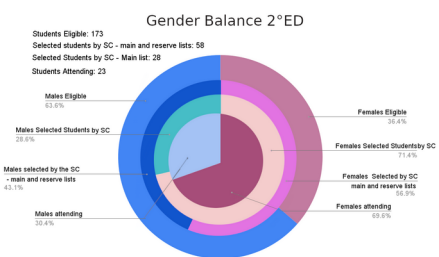
In April 2023 we made the selection for the second intake of students. Out of a total of 289 applications, 173 fulfilled the general eligibility criteria and were evaluated by the MASS Selection Committee. As a result, 58 applicants were selected for admission. Scholarships were offered to the 23 highest ranked applicants (main list). The remaining candidates were placed in a reserve list, the top 5 of which were offered a Fee Waiver.



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

## Teaching committee to homogenize the student distribution in S3

For the first time the teaching committee needed to re-evaluate the choices of the students for their following semester, in order to maintain a suitable balance between the partner universities.



MASS applicant, eligible and select student gender balance study

## Quality Evaluation Committee

The first Quality Evaluation Committee Meeting took place in October 2022. It clarified the goals of the meeting, nominated the chair of the committee, discussed the various reports and questionnaires, and reported on the first feedback from the first edition students. Also, the gender balance and the nationality distribution of MASS applicants and selected students was evaluated

## Extra scholarships from ASI

It is a real pleasure to announce that ASI (Italian Space Agency) is funding MASS with an extra grant for one student per edition, so 3 more scholarships in total for the program 2022-2027.



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