

Report from the Board of Directors meeting 31.III.2015

The latest meeting of the Board was very short and mostly about mere administrative issues; moreover, the Director was absent and it was chaired by prof. Dal Maso, who made everything shorter. Hereafter we present the few topics that may be of interest for the students.

Main topics of interests for the students

1. Call for joint ICTP-SISSA Phd Programme in Physics and Mathematics
2. New call for 150 hours collaboration (3 positions)
3. JCOMM Masterclasses: contribution for students involved in SISSA for the Schools programme
4. Postponement of PhD thesis defense

1. JIISP for Physics and Mathematics

As every year, the call for the enrollment to SISSA PhD courses reserved to ICTP Diploma students has been published, with deadline March, 31st. The positions available are the following

PhD Course	Number of positions
<i>GMP + MAMA</i>	2
<i>AP + APP</i>	1
<i>SBP</i>	1
<i>SP</i>	1
<i>TPP</i>	1
<i>CM</i>	1

2. New call for 150 hours collaboration (3 positions to be filled)

After the first selection of 150 hours call, a few positions have not been assigned due to the lack of candidates: since the Areas deem that they are important, and not to lose the opportunity to provide this extra contribution to the students, there will be a supplementary call.

The positions to be filled are

- *Website management, Mathematics Area: 150 hours*
- *Technical support and animal care, Tactile Perception and learning lab: 150 hours*
- *Website management, Phd in Statistical Physics: 75 hours*

and the salary is 10,30 EUR per hour.

The students' representatives are encouraged to invite people to apply. For the second time in the last year, the Board has invited the Area Councils, together with the students representatives, to perform an analysis of the positions to be opened, to check the need and appropriateness of the requests.

The President of the Students' Council will be asked to provide the name of the students' representative in the evaluation board for these positions.

3. JCOM Masterclasses: contribution for students involved in SISSA for the Schools programme

In 2015, as already done last year, SISSA Medialab is organizing the International Courses of the

Journal of Science Communication. They are short and intensive training courses aimed at scientists, managers of cultural institution and other professionals, to communicate science to diverse audience. More information about the next courses can be found at the website <http://jcom.sissa.it/masterclasses/>

Six PhD students, who have participated to the SISSA for the Schools program during this and last year will be offered a contribution to completely cover the participation fee to one of the courses. An evaluation board will evaluate the applications. Students who are going to be enrolled to SISSA in academic year 2015-16 and who participated to the programme in year 2014-15 can apply when announced.

The Board has urged, one more time, SISSA Medialab and Interdisciplinary Laboratory to avoid competing in similar activities such JCOM Masterclasses and the activities related to the Master of Science Communication “F. Pratico”.

4. Postponement of PhD thesis defenses

The Senate in its last meeting and the Board have approved the postponement of one thesis defense in Neuroscience (Neurobiology curriculum).

The matter was thoroughly discussed, because it was a four months postponement of a defense *already* postponed by further four months. Moreover, as opposite as in the previous span, no fellowship will be awarded to the student to whom *new experimental needs occurred*. The Board recalls that, when the law about PhD courses had not fixed a deadline to defend the thesis, we approved a regulation that should have reduced to the minimum the requests of late postponement, but that since then the number of request has been increasing and starts to look like a undue stretching of the already longer than standard PhD programme of SISSA. In particular, the fact that not all the students who require and get an extension are paid, even if working everyday in the labs, is much frowned upon. From next academic year it had already been requested that all the extensions should be asked by the end of September.

The Board will conduct a survey of the postponements granted in the last years, and it is ready to enquire after the supervisors who may have abused of them.