

## Summer Science School: program and schedule



Summer Science School (SSS) is a multidisciplinary seven-day program that introduces interested students to the basics of a research perspective on the world.

During that week, students are accommodated in Petnica Science Center, in three or four-bed bedrooms, while meals are served in the canteen that is part of the complex. Our cooks are doing their best to provide both healthy and delicious food for young scientists, and any students with special dietary requirements will be provided with individually prepared meals to meet their needs.

SSS participants directly engage in theoretical, practical, and research activities in different fields.

The first type of activities in the curriculum are theoretical **Lectures**, held by experienced lecturers who are our long-term associates involved in the PSC's work, mostly covering areas of science that are less represented in the regular school program. After students familiarise themselves with the basics, the lecture turns more into an open discussion rather than a one-sided transfer of knowledge.

**Field activities** should emphasize that not all the science is done in modern facilities, and that, sometimes, especially during the sampling phase of research, scientists need to get their hands dirty. All the field activities are organized in the vicinity of PSC and do not require special physical preparation or stamina, just a pair of comfortable sneakers and clothes.

**LAB activities** in the areas of Biology, Chemistry, or Physics are conducted in the main LAB building in PSC, where scholars are provided with all the safety equipment needed. Geology and Archaeology LAB activities are conducted in designated laboratories in the educational complex, while in the case of Psychology, a regular classroom is used. All the LAB activities should provide hands-on experience for scholars, and teach them how to apply some commonly used methods for answering scientific questions in each scientific area.

During SSS, students are assigned to a **science project** based on their interests, which they develop during designated time slots under the supervision of our assistants. In some sense this is the main activity of the SSS, since, while working on a project, students take part in every step of the scientific process, from setting the hypothesis, and determining the best methods to answer the specific scientific question, to obtaining and analyzing the results, and subsequently by interpreting and discussing them to make a final conclusion. Science projects are done in small groups, and result are presented during the last day, that way also practicing another important skill for every scientist: oral presentation.

One day of the SSS is dedicated to the **field trip** to natural-historical attractions near the PSC. Once again, special physical preparation or stamina is not required, but comfortable sneakers and clothes are since the field trip usually includes some light hiking. Lunchboxes are provided.

PSC is famous for organizing content-rich programs, and SSS is not an exception. Therefore, evenings are also designated for some educational activities, but mostly fun and relaxing ones such as quiz night, watching a movie, debating, etc. These activities are not mandatory, and in case a student feels tired due to a busy day, one is of course allowed to go to sleep early.

A preliminary schedule for the Summer Science School, with the timeline of activities, is provided below.

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	
08:45		Morning meeting	Morning meeting	Morning meeting	Morning meeting	Morning meeting	Morning meeting		
09:00		Breakfast							
09:30		Breakfast							
10:00	Arrival, room assignment	LAB: Biology	LAB: Chemistry	Field trip	Lecture: History	LAB: Physics	Workshop: Electronics/Computer science	That's all folks	
10:30									
11:00									
11:30	Welcome speech, introductory meeting	Lecture: Linguistics	Science project		LAB: Psychology	Lecture: Where science meets art (alt: Biomedical sciences)	Preparing presentations for Science project		
12:00									
12:30									
13:00		Lunch							
13:30		Lunch							
14:00		Lunch							
14:30		Lunch							
15:00	Getting-to-know-each-other workshop	Rest	Rest	Field trip	Rest	Rest	Rest		
15:30									
16:00		Field activity: Geo science	Field activity: Archaeology		Field activity: Biology	Science project	Presentations of science projects		
16:30									
17:00	Tour around PSC Facilities								
17:30		Science project	Lecture: Astronomy	Free time/rest	Science project	LAB: Geology/Archaeology			
18:00	Lecture: First steps into science								
18:30									
19:00									
19:30									
20:00		Dinner							
20:30		Dinner							
21:00	Meeting	Quizz	Astronomical observations - stellarium	Movie night + discussion	Board games night/ short populat science lectures/ debate	Free time/Preparing presentations for Science project	Final meeting		
21:30									
22:00		Short meeting	Short meeting		Short meeting	Short meeting			
22:30									
23:00		Bed time							