

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 complex's canteen. Our cooks are doing their best to provide 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 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 are designed to provide participants with meaningful, hands-on experience across a wide range of scientific fields. The majority of the disciplines represented in PSC will be included in the program, with activities conducted in appropriate environments, such as fully equipped laboratories or classrooms, depending on the nature of each discipline. Through these sessions, participants will develop practical skills and learn how to apply commonly used scientific methods to explore and answer questions.

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.

Last year's schedule is given below as an example. The new schedule will be announced soon.

We look forward to seeing you in the Petnica Science Center!

time	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	
08:45		Moorning meeting	Moorning meeting	Moorning meeting	Moorning meeting	Moorning meeting	Moorning meeting		
09:00		BREAKFAST							
09:30		BREAKFAST							
10:00	Arrival, room assignments	LAB: Biology	LAB: Physics	Field trip	LAB: Archaeology	LAB: Psychology	Workshop: Electronics/ Computer science	That's all, folks!	
10:30									
11:00									
11:30									
12:00	Welcome speech, introductory meeting	Lecture: Linguistics	Field activity: Archeology		Lecture: History	Lecture: Social sciences/ Anthropology	Preparing presentations for Science Project		
12:30									
13:00									
13:30									
14:00	LUNCH								
14:30	LUNCH								
15:00	Getting-to-know-each-other workshop	Free time/rest	Free time/rest	Field trip	Free time/rest	Free time/rest	Free time/rest		
15:30									
16:00		Field activity: Geo sciences	Science Project		Field activity: Biology	Science Project			
16:30									
17:00	PSC facilities tour						Science Project Presentations		
17:30									
18:00	Lecture: The Student's Guide to the Science Galaxy	Science Project	Lecture: Astronomy	Free time/rest	Science Project	LAB: Chemistry			
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	Free time/rest	Final meeting		
21:30									
22:00		Brief meeting	Brief meeting		Brief meeting	Brief meeting			
22:30									
23:00	Bed time								