

This nomination stands for:

An institution

Institution name (if applicable) and institutional representative name

International Space University

Activity for which nominated: please specify particular achievement in the area of bridging space and society

In 2012, ISU celebrates its 25th Anniversary! ISU has been created around the theme “Space”. Whereas on the one hand this represents a limitation from a topical point of view, on the other hand, the broadness is vested in the interdisciplinary character by joining all aspects related to space. Diversification is obtained by selecting students and faculty on the so-called 3I's principle, which stands for: International; Intercultural and Interdisciplinary.

A specific effort is made to ensure participation of as international a group as possible, whereby each group in the different program is typically composed of 26-28 different nationalities.

The intercultural character aims to create a microcosmos so that the participants of the programs, even if they belong to highly competitive (space) nationalities, are working together during a period of time. Due to this intensive contact, reinforced by internet based networking tools, such contacts remain forever and, therefore, hopefully may contribute to a future society with higher cross-cultural tolerance. As far as one particular

aspect is concerned, a better gender distribution in the future space world is targeted by steering towards a 30 percent female participation in the groups, which is far superior in comparison to the present gender distribution in the space sector.

The interdisciplinary character is rather unique as an educational model. It is reflected in the distribution of participants, faculty and lecturers over the different disciplines covered. All aspects related to space are covered in each program, varying from scientific and technical ones to life sciences and medicine, business and management, policy and law and even pure humanities related topics (philosophy, art...). Students with a background in any discipline may be accepted for the program on the condition that they clearly demonstrate their interest in space activities to the admissions committee.

General background of the candidate/team/organisation

The International Space University is a private non-profit institution, formally recognized as an institute of higher education in France by the French Ministry of Education. It specializes in providing graduate-level training to the future leaders of the emerging global space community at its Central Campus in Strasbourg, France, and at locations around the world. In its two-month Space Studies Program and one-year Masters program, ISU offers its students a unique Core Curriculum covering all disciplines related to space programs and enterprises, space science, space engineering, systems engineering, space policy and law, business and management, and space and society. Both programs also involve an intense student research Team Project providing international graduate students and young space professionals the opportunity to solve complex problems by working together in an intercultural environment.

Since its founding in 1987, ISU has graduated more than 3300 students from over 100 countries. Together with hundreds of ISU faculty and lecturers from around the world, ISU alumni comprise an extremely effective network of space professionals and leaders that actively facilitates individual career growth, professional activities and international space cooperation.