



IDA Student Network (IDA-SN)

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The IDA Student Network (IDA-SN) is a student-driven initiative hosted by the Instrument Centre for Danish Astrophysics (IDA). Its purpose is to support student engagement in astrophysics and space-related activities across Denmark by providing a national platform for collaboration, learning, and initiative.

IDA-SN is open to Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD students at Danish universities. Students may organise academic, educational, and community-building activities that complement formal education and research, including workshops, visits to observatories and laboratories, thematic meetings, and participation in national activities such as ADAM and observing schools. Activities are educational and exploratory in nature and are clearly distinct from professional research governance or mission operations.

The network is coordinated by a Student Committee, responsible for organising activities, facilitating communication across institutions, managing any funding allocated to student activities, and providing a brief annual report to IDA Board. The committee aims for broad representation across Danish universities and defines its own internal working practices.

Election or appointment of the Student Committee normally takes place in connection with the Annual Danish Astronomy Meeting (ADAM), organised by IDA. All students are invited to ADAM, and IDA covers participation costs for students below PhD level. In addition to ADAM, the IDA Student Network may organise its own meetings, workshops, and activities throughout the year, whenever relevant content, timing, and venues are identified by the students.

IDA-SN operates under the umbrella of IDA but remains student-led. IDA provides an institutional home, visibility, and practical support, while the IDA Board does not control or approve individual student activities.

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How to Get Involved?

The IDA Student Network (IDA-SN) is open to Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD students at Danish universities who are interested in astrophysics and space science.

You can get involved by:

- participating in student-organised workshops, visits, and meetings,
- proposing ideas for new activities or collaborations,
- joining or forming a sub-working group around a shared interest,
- standing for election or appointment to the Student Committee,
- taking part in the annual student meeting held in connection with ADAM.

All students are invited to attend the Annual Danish Astronomy Meeting (ADAM), organised by IDA. IDA covers participation costs for students below PhD level. ADAM serves as a national meeting point where students can meet peers from across Denmark, exchange ideas, help shape future activities, and elect or appoint members of the Student Committee.

In addition to ADAM, students in the IDA Student Network are encouraged to organise their own meetings, workshops, and visits throughout the year, whenever there is relevant content, interest, and an appropriate time and place. These activities can be small or large and are supported by IDA's communication and organisational infrastructure.

No prior experience in organising activities or committees is required. The IDA Student Network is intended as an open and accessible environment where students can explore ideas, gain experience, and build national connections.



IDA Student Network (IDA-SN) – Terms of Reference

Purpose and Scope

The IDA Student Network (IDA-SN) is a student-driven initiative hosted by the Instrument Centre for Danish Astrophysics (IDA). It provides a national framework for student engagement in astrophysics and space-related activities and supports collaboration, learning, and initiative across Danish universities.

The network complements formal education and research environments and is intended to strengthen national connections among students while encouraging independent initiative and shared ownership.

Activities

The IDA Student Network may organise and support activities such as:

- student-led workshops and short courses,
- visits to observatories, laboratories, and astronomy- or space-related facilities in Denmark,
- networking events and thematic meetings,
- activities related to data analysis, instrumentation, or observational techniques,
- participation in national activities including ADAM and observing schools.

Activities may be organised in connection with ADAM or independently at other times of the year, depending on student interest, timing, and content. All activities are educational and exploratory in nature and are clearly separated from professional research governance, mission operations, and institutional decision-making.

All activities within the IDA-SN are student driven and educational in nature and do not constitute professional research governance, mission operations or official representation of IDA.

Organisation and Student Committee

Members of the Student Committee are expected to act in the interest of the network as a whole and to handle situations involving personal academic or professional interests with transparency.

The network is coordinated by a Student Committee. The committee is responsible for:

- planning and coordinating student activities,
- facilitating communication across institutions,
- establishing sub-working groups when relevant,
- managing any funding allocated to student activities,
- providing a brief annual report to IDA Board.



The Student Committee is coordinated by two co-chairs to ensure clear roles, shared responsibility and continuity. The co-chairs are responsible for keeping the IDA Board informed about the committee's ongoing activities. To ensure close coordination, the two co-chairs are invited to take part in meetings of the IDA board. If one or both student co-chair(s) are not elected members of the IDA Board, they will be invited to attend all board meetings with observer status.

The committee aims for broad representation across Danish universities and defines its own internal roles and working practices.

Election or appointment of committee members normally takes place in connection with the Annual Danish Astronomy Meeting (ADAM) every year. During ADAM, dedicated time is allocated for students to meet, discuss shared interests, elect or appoint committee members, establish sub-working groups, and outline longer-term plans for the IDA Student Network. Between ADAM meetings, the committee may adjust its structure or fill vacancies according to internally agreed procedures.

Outgoing student committee members are encouraged to support continuity by sharing experience and knowledge with incoming members.

Members of the Student Committee are normally appointed for a one-year term, normally aligned with the ADAM meeting. Re-appointment for additional terms is possible to support continuity and experience transfer.

Relationship to IDA

The IDA Student Network operates under the umbrella of IDA but remains student led. IDA provides an institutional home, continuity, and practical support but does not direct or approve individual student activities.

IDA Board serves as the primary point of contact and receives annual activity and funding reports from the Student Committee.

IDA's role is to provide support visibility, and continuity, while decisions on student activities and priorities remain with the students.

Communication and Membership

IDA supports the Student Network by providing communication and organisational infrastructure. The IDA Student Network has a dedicated section on the IDA website where activities, contacts, and opportunities are presented. IDA also provides services that allow students to register and deregister as members, enabling the Student Committee to maintain an up-to-date membership list.

The Student Network may communicate directly with its members through IDA services and may contribute content to the monthly IDA newsletter, which is distributed to the



national IDA community. Students communicate and participate in activities in their capacity as students and not as official representatives of IDA. This ensures visibility of student activities and strengthens connections between students and the wider Danish astrophysics environment.

IDA also ensures that students are involved in student-related activities across IDA initiatives, including the IDA Observing School, the ADAM organisation committee, and working groups related to education and teaching.

Expected Impact

Through this framework, the IDA Student Network is expected to:

- strengthen national collaboration among students in astrophysics and space science,
- increase awareness of research infrastructure and opportunities,
- support recruitment, retention, and student engagement across career stages,
- contribute to a well-connected and inclusive Danish astrophysics community.