

The 13th European Summer School on Experimental Nuclear Astrophysics

Catania, Italy

14-20 June 2026

2nd Announcement

We have the pleasure to announce the 13th European Summer School on Experimental Nuclear Astrophysics (ESSENA), devoted to the education of young Ph.D. students and young researchers.

The school belongs to the European Network of Nuclear Astrophysics Schools (ENNAS), a network made by the European schools on nuclear astrophysics and related areas having the common effort of preparing and educating young physicists in nuclear physics, astrophysics and their mutual relationship in the nuclear astrophysics field.

The school will deal with both various astrophysical issues, ranging from primordial nucleosynthesis to stellar nucleosynthesis and evolution. Nuclear topics, as well, including novel experimental approaches, radioactive ion beams, indirect methods, and plasma physics (in stars and in the laboratory) will be investigated.

The lectures of the school will be given by high-quality level scientists, selected for their didactical skills. In the spirit of the school, large room will be given to young researcher oral contributions. Specific sessions will be allocated to allow them to present their latest scientific results.

SCHOOL WEBPAGE AND CONTACT

Updated information about the school, the program, the registration form, the fee payment will be given at the following:

-website: <https://agenda.infn.it/event/48509/>

-email: astro2026@lns.infn.it

VENUE

The school will be held in Aci Trezza (Catania) at the “Grand Hotel Faraglioni” <https://www.grandhotelfaraglioni.com/> a four star hotel in front of the Ionian sea. Devoted details about the hotel booking will be given in the next announcement.

TIMING

The school will be held from Sunday, 14th June, to Saturday 20th June. The period includes one day for arrivals (14.06.2026) and one day for departures (20.06.2026). During the whole period of the school, morning and afternoon lecture sessions will be given.

HISTORY

The school is internationally renowned as a cornerstone for young-scientist formation in the field of nuclear astrophysics as well as a “melting-pot” for the discussion of the up-to-date research activity. The previous editions of the school took place in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2022 and 2024. Traditionally, particular attention is devoted to the participation of young students from less-favoured countries.

TRAVEL INFORMATIONS

Catania has an international airport well connected with both national and international airports. The city is located on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, in a comfortable and spectacular environment. The school will be hosted in the four star “Grand Hotel Faraglioni” located in Aci Trezza, a picturesque fishermen’s village on the Ionian sea coast. At the time of the school the weather is ideal in Sicily (around 25° C). As regards for entering Italy from foreign countries, we refer to the Italian Foreign Affairs page <https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/>.

Bus shuttles will be organized by the LOC for school participants only on 14.06 and 20.06. Aci Trezza is also reachable from Catania by public transport (<https://www.amts.ct.it/mappa-delle-linee?percorso=534>).

Catania is connected to many Italian and international airports by frequent flights operated by several airlines. Aci Trezza can be reached from the airport using the ALIBUS (http://www.amt.ct.it/?page_id=2610) and then by public transport (<https://www.amts.ct.it/mappa-delle-linee?percorso=534>), or by taxi (<http://www.radiotaxicatania.org/it/>) at a fixed rate, around 45 euro.

SPONSORS

The school is jointly organized by the INFN – Laboratori Nazionali del Sud (Catania) and Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia “E. Majorana”, University of Catania, the Centro Siciliano di Fisica Nucleare e Struttura della Materia (CSFNMSM) and NuPECC.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

M. Aliotta, D. Balabanski, C. Bertulani, M. Busso, E. Chavez, A. Coc, F. Hammache, T. Kajino, S. Kubono, K. Langanke, J. Josè, G. Rogachev, S. Romano, A. Spirou, C. Spitaleri, O. Straniero, L. Trache, R.E. Tribble, T. Uesaka, Weiping Liu, M. Wiescher, H. Yamaguchi.

LOCAL COMMITTEE

R.G. Pizzone (Chair), L. Lamia (Chair), G. L. Guardo, M. La Cognata, D. Lattuada, A. Oliva, G.G. Rapisarda, M. L. Sergi, R. Spartà, A. Tumino.

SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY

Giovanni Luca Guardo and Roberta Spartà (astro2026@lns.infn.it).

PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Primordial Nucleosynthesis
Stellar Evolution
Stellar Abundances
Hydrostatic and Explosive Nucleosynthesis
Plasmas in stars and the laboratory, EOS and Opacities
Detectors and Facilities for Nuclear Astrophysics
Experiments with rare and radioactive isotopes
Indirect Methods for Nuclear Astrophysics
nuclear weak response and interactions
s/r/p processes

- **LIST OF CONFIRMED SPEAKERS**

M. Aliotta, T. Ahn, C. Bertulani, W. Bang, R. Buompane, M. Busso, G. Cescutti, S. Cherubini, J. De Boer, R. Diehl, B. Fields, G. Gyurki, T. Kajino, S. Kimura, D. Lambarri, J. Lerendegui Marco, M. Limongi, D. Mascalì, E. Masha, H. Schatz, L. Trache, S. Turkat, A. Tsantiri

- **CONTRIBUTIONS BY YOUNG RESEARCHERS**

A number of oral contributions from young researchers will be selected by the SOC. Please send your abstract to astro2026@lns.infn.it by May 10th 2026. Selected speakers will be granted the possibility to give a short talk in special sessions.

- **ACCOMODATION & PAYMENTS**

The organizers encourage the participation of young researchers from Europe and from non-European countries. The number of participants will be strictly limited to 70.

A limited number of students will be selected by the LOC on the basis of their CV to be supported for the local expenses only. For those interested in, please contact the organizing committee by email at astro2026@lns.infn.it. Travel expenses cannot be supported.

The registration fee is 400 €: it will cover the school expenses as well the school trip, social activities as well the welcome dinner, coffee breaks and the social dinner. It can be payed via credit card or bank transfer. Please contact the school travel agent for the procedure: a.romeo@shougun.it

The venue of the school is the “Grand Hotel Faraglioni” <https://www.grandhotelfaraglioni.com/> a four star hotel in front of the Ionian sea. Rooms were booked at a special rate by the school secretary on a *first come – first serve* base. The daily cost is 55 € for a double room (per person breakfast included) and 80€ for a single one. Lunches and dinners are available at the hotel upon agreement at a special discounted rate. The special prices are due only if it is booked via the school organization.

A large number of restaurants, full price range and taste, is present in Aci Trezza within walking distances from the hotel.

Fee for accompanying persons is 150 € which will cover school trip, welcome cocktail and social dinner.

The registration fee and the hotel booking “at a special rate” have to be paid in advance via the hotel booking system by contacting them at hotel@grandhotelfaraglioni.com (and in cc to fom@grandhotelfaraglioni.com) specifying “ESSENA26” in the subject.

- **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Social activities will be organized during the school. During the school, a trip in an Unesco world heritage site as well as a social dinner will be organized (participation cost will be covered by the registration fee). A travel agency desk will be present at the hotel to arrange further trips for accompanying persons, upon request. Further information will be given in the final announcement of the school.

- **IMPORTANT DEADLINES**

Invitation letter for VISA application: 15th April 2026

Registration: 1st May 2026

Abstract submission: 10th May 2026

Hotel booking: 15th April 2026.

- **NEXT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Final announcement will appear 2 weeks before the school beginning with details about lecturers, subject and program of lectures and final information.