

IEEC/121/2023

**CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIPS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 36TH EDITION OF THE SPACE STUDIES PROGRAM 2024 (ISU) TO BE HELD IN HOUSTON, TEXAS (USA) FROM JUNE 8 TO AUGUST 3, 2024**

**ANTECEDENTS**

By agreement dated October 27, 2020, the Government of the Generalitat de Catalunya approved the Agreement for the New Space Strategy of Catalonia. The IEEC is part of the entities in charge of promoting and executing the different activities identified in the strategy, among which is the development of the Talent and Society program, among others.

The **Talent and Society programme** of the NewSpace Strategy of Catalonia promotes activities aimed at the recruitment, generation, and retention of all the talent that has capabilities for developing solutions in the NewSpace field.

The [International Space University](#) (ISU) organises the [Space Studies Program](#) (SSP), which offers an 8-week development experience during the summer months for the final stages of higher education students. The main goal of the programme is to train the students to access the professional world in the field of space economy and space industry.

The SSP is supported by the European Space Agency (ESA) and is an intensive course that offers courses in a wide variety of space disciplines as well as practical training through workshops and professional visits. During the program, participants work in teams on projects to address current and future issues in the space sector.

The 36th edition will take place in Houston, Texas (USA), from 8 June to 3 August 2024. In the framework of the Talent and Society programme's goals, **3 scholarships** are offered ('NewSpace Catalonia Scholarships'), which add up to those awarded by the ISU itself and the European Space Agency (ESA) in order to partially compensate the costs associated with participation in the SSP.

**1.- OBJECT OF THE CALL**

The IEEC and the Government of Catalonia open a call for **three (3)** NewSpace Catalonia Scholarships for participation in the 36th edition of the Space Studies Program (SSP) organised by the International Space University (ISU) which will take place in Houston, Texas (USA), from June 8 to August 3, 2024.

The amount for the NewSpace Catalonia Scholarships is 7,000 euros each. The scholarships are set at a flat rate in order to partially offset the costs associated with participation in the Space Studies Program (SSP).

The scholarships will be paid by the IEEC directly to the ISU.

**2.- BENEFICIARIES AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Candidates who meet the eligibility and assessment requirements set by the ISU and the IEEC - Government of Catalonia can benefit from these scholarships, according to the selection process set out below.

The selection process consists of two phases, the first of which requires the submission of the candidacy following the ISU procedure, and taking into account the requirements of the ISU and

the IEEC - Government of Catalonia. The second phase consists of the selection of candidates that result from the preselection made by the ISU.

**a. Candidate preselection phase by ISU**

To take part in the present call, candidates must go through and pass the ISU admissions procedure to be able to participate in the SSP'24.

The ISU eligibility requirements and the selection procedure can be found at the following link: <https://www.isunet.edu/ssp/>

Apart from the ISU eligibility requirements, candidates must meet the following participation requirements in order to obtain NewSpace Catalonia Scholarships:

- having completed at least 3 years of university studies at the start of the SSP course.
- to be studying a bachelor's degree or master's degree in Catalonia, or to have recently completed them (within the last five years).
- high level of English.
- include in the letter of motivation for the ISU their interest in the NewSpace strategy of Catalonia (minimum 250 words).

The deadline for submitting candidacies to the ISU is until **January 31, 2024**.

**b. Candidate selection phase by the IEEC - Government of Catalonia, once the ISU pre-selection has been passed**

Once the candidacies have been evaluated by the ISU Admissions Office, it will send those who have passed the admission procedure to the evaluation committee designated by the EEC and the Government of Catalonia (hereinafter, the NewSpace Catalonia Evaluation Committee) those who have passed the admission procedure to be able to participate in the SSP'24 and which meet the requirements of the NewSpace Catalonia Scholarships, in order to be able to evaluate them internally.

The NewSpace Catalonia Evaluation Committee will proceed to evaluate the candidacies based on the criteria indicated in point 3 of this document. In the final selection, priority will be given to students who have been selected for ESA scholarships in SSP'24 ([https://www.esa.int/Education/International\\_Space\\_University\\_ISU](https://www.esa.int/Education/International_Space_University_ISU)). The combination of these two scholarships (ESA: €11,000; NewSpace Catalonia: €7,000) will allow selected students to pay only €2,000 for course registration.

Once the candidacies have been evaluated, the IEEC will inform the ISU of the results and conclusions of the evaluation. The ISU will manage contact with the beneficiaries of the aid.

On February 19, 2024, the identity of the beneficiaries of the scholarships will be announced on the IEEC website ([www.ieec.cat](http://www.ieec.cat)). The IEEC will also contact the beneficiaries by email.

**3. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Once the participation requirements have been verified by the NewSpace Catalonia Evaluation Committee, candidates will be evaluated taking into account the following criteria:

- Degree obtained in Catalan universities and academic performance.
  - o *Quantitative weighting: 50%*
  - o Average grade of the degree academic record:
    - 3 points, if > 8
    - 2 points, if > 7

- 1 points, if > 6
- Completed master's degree: 1 point
- Have completed the final degree thesis or final master thesis in topics related to the aerospace field: 1 point (2 if both conditions are met)
- Professional and/or practical experiences in the aerospace field and volunteering activities in Catalonia.
  - *Quantitative weighting: 30%*
  - Professional experience in the aerospace sector: 1 point
  - Experience in internships in the aerospace sector: 1 point
  - Volunteer activities: 1 point
- Motivation letter.
  - *Quantitative weighting: 20%*
  - Professional and personal presentation: 1 point
  - Motivation: 2 points
    - How do you expect the SSP to favour your professional and personal development?
    - What are your thematic areas of interest in the Catalan NewSpace?
    - How do you see yourself in the Catalan NewSpace sector?
  - Summary: 1 point
    - Summary of your future professional expectations in the Catalan NewSpace sector

#### **4.- EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

The evaluation committee of the submitted candidacies will be made up of the following members:

- Mr. Juan de Dalmau, Former President of the ISU.
- Ms. Verònica Tercero, Coordinator of the New Space Strategy at the Generalitat de Catalunya.
- Mr. Miquel Sureda, Doctor and professor at the UPC.
- Mr. Josep Colomé, Director of the Area for the Promotion of the Space Sector of Catalonia at the IEEC.
- Ms. Anna Ruiz, Coordinator of the Talent and Society Programme at the IEEC.

If necessary, the Newspace Catalonia Evaluation Committee may consult the opinion of experts or appoint an ad hoc committee to carry out the evaluation.

#### **5. OBLIGATIONS OF THE BENEFICIARY**

The beneficiaries of the scholarships are obliged to comply with what is established in the present regulatory bases and in the corresponding call, and in particular they will have the following obligations.

5.1.- Before the celebration of the SSP:

Participation in a meeting with ISU alumni to learn about their experience during the SSP, organised by the NewSpace Strategy before the start of the course in Houston.

5.2.- During the celebration of the SSP:

- Fulfil the objective and purpose of the scholarships, that is, participation in the subsidised activity.

### 5.3.- After the celebration of the SSP:

Once the SSP24 course has been completed and enjoyed, within one month following the end of the course, the beneficiaries must submit to the IEEC and the Government of Catalonia as proof of having attended and participated in the course:

- A short report (minimum 250 words, max. 1 page) explaining the activities carried out as part of the course and how the participant has benefited from them.
- Copy of the diploma provided by the ISU for having attended the course.
- Recording of a testimonial explaining the experience during the SSP (maximum duration 5 minutes)

The aforementioned documentation must be provided by email to [info-apec@ieec.cat](mailto:info-apec@ieec.cat). Likewise, the IEEC and the Government of Catalonia may request the beneficiaries of the scholarships to participate in some of the events organised within the framework of the NewSpace Strategy, in order to share their personal experience in the SSP.

## 6.- DATA PROTECTION

The data provided by applicants are incorporated into the IEEC's processing system with the aim of managing and resolving the granting of scholarships, in accordance with the provisions of these regulatory bases, and are treated in a manner lawful, loyal, transparent, adequate, relevant, limited, accurate and updated, in compliance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Organic Law 3/2018, of December 5 (LOPDGDD). The legal basis for data processing is the consent of the interested party.

These data are kept for the period strictly necessary to fulfil the aforementioned purpose, respecting in any case what is determined by the regulatory bases of the call and the applicable filing regulations. The IEEC certifies that it has implemented the technical and organisational measures contained in the aforementioned Regulation (EU) 2016/679 in order to guarantee the security and integrity of the personal data included in the files and to avoid their alteration, loss and unauthorised processing or access.

The IEEC may communicate certain data to third parties in the public or private sector, either because the intervention of these entities during the scholarship management process may be necessary for it to be resolved correctly, or because it is foreseen in some norm with the rank of law.

As long as the interested party does not communicate otherwise, it is understood that his data has not been modified and that the party undertakes to notify the IEEC of any variation.

Applicants can exercise their rights of access, rectification, limitation of treatment, deletion and opposition to the treatment of their data or exercise their right to portability by writing to the IEEC (c/ Gran Capità, 2-4, 08034) to the email address [protecciodedades@ieec.cat](mailto:protecciodedades@ieec.cat). Applicants must attach a photocopy of their ID or sign the email with a recognized electronic signature. In case of disagreement with the treatment, the applicants also have the right to submit a claim to the Catalan Data Protection Authority.

## 7.- ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

The beneficiaries of the scholarship authorise the IEEC and the Government of Catalonia to publish in the media that they consider appropriate names and surnames in the event that they become beneficiaries. Likewise, they will be published on the IEEC transparency portal. Any issue not contemplated in this call will be resolved by the NewSpace Catalonia Evaluation Committee.

Participation in this call implies acceptance of the terms exposed in the rules of the call.

For any doubt or question about the call, you can get in touch via the following email: [info-apec@ieec.cat](mailto:info-apec@ieec.cat).

Barcelona, January 2024.

Josep Colomé Ferrer  
Director of the Area for the Promotion of the Space Sector of Catalonia at the IEEC