

The International School for Young Astronomers (ISYA) has enrolled 1484 alumni over its 52-year lifespan. The three-week-long intensive ISYAs mainly target countries where astronomy is not fully developed, as well as isolated graduate students around the globe. The reports of all 42 schools organised to date are available online on the IAU/ISYA webpage¹.

We have extracted the names of alumni from these reports and created a database. The country assigned to each of the alumni is that of the current sovereign state of their home institute, not necessarily their country of origin. Alumni are counted only once, even if they attended several ISYAs. Those from former republics of Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and USSR are assigned the current sovereign states of their institutes at the time they attended the school, whenever this information is available. For those without that information, we adopt the former capital city to assign a tentative country.

The countries with the greatest number of alumni (> 40: Argentina, Brazil, China, Egypt, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Nigeria, Thailand and Spain) are those that have hosted most schools. The exceptions are Greece and Spain, which hosted one school each in the 1970s, with uncharacteristically large number of students. Currently ISYAs accept about 30–50 students, with at least half of the students coming from outside the host country.

The map includes areas that were targeted by the programme in the past, but that are now considered as astronomically developed countries. In grey and light yellow, we find countries still needing to develop larger astronomy communities, from where we would like to increase recruitments. So far, we have enrolled students from 93 countries, and this number keeps increasing. For example, for the ISYA organised in 2019 in China we had, for the first time, alumni from Bangladesh, Mongolia and Myanmar.

We would like to keep improving the ISYA historical database. If you are a graduate of an ISYA, we would like to update your information. Please send an email to isya@iau.org includ-

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The ISYA family

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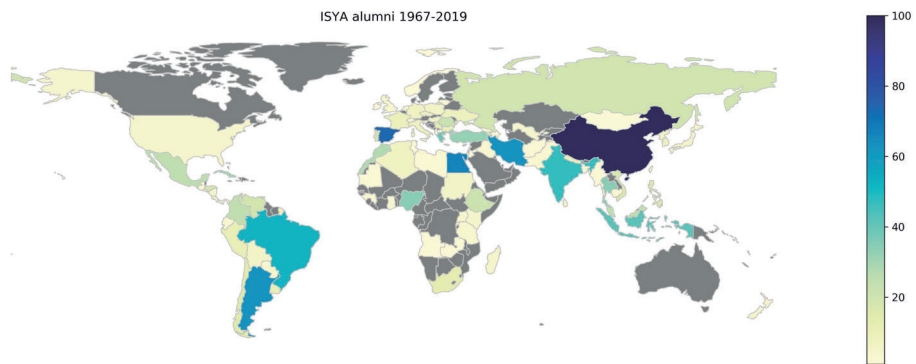


Figure 7: Distribution of 1459 alumni with location information in the database, coming from 93 countries. Boundaries are as defined by sovereign states in 'Natural Earth'². Source: OYA.

ing these fields: name, surname, gender, current e-mail, ISYA school(s) you attended, citizenship at the time you attended the school, year in which you completed your BSc, MSc and PhD (where applicable), your current position or occupation, and any other information you would like to add.

Notes

¹ https://www.iau.org/education/school_for_young_astronomers/list/

² <https://www.naturalearthdata.com/>