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The International School of Young Astronomers: 2023-2024 Program and a Sample of Alumni Paths

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The International School for Young Astronomers (ISYA) has organised 42 schools in 27 countries since 1967. The ISYAs are a face-to-face activity where graduate students and lecturers interact for three weeks of intense work. Due to the pandemic, three ISYAs programmed for 2020-2021 were postponed or cancelled, and none could be organised in 2022 due to severe restrictions for international travel.

The ISYAs will resume activities in 2023 with two schools: Tonantzintla¹, Mexico, from 17 July to 4 August, geared towards the exploitation of large databases for Latin American and Caribbean graduate students, and Cape Town², South Africa, from 19 November to 9 December, geared towards observational astronomy for African graduate students. Another school has been approved to take place in Algeria in 2024.

In 2020-2022 the IAU Office for Young Astronomers (OYA) encouraged recent alumni to complete their training and pursue a career in astronomy. OYA launched a survey in 2021 to understand the career paths of alumni from generations 1967-2014. The survey received 97 replies: 90% of these alumni work in astronomy, 50% are IAU members and 10% work in other STEM fields. The alumni have undertaken great mobility in their career paths (see figure): 57% of alumni did their MSc, PhD, postdocs or work in other countries, and 70% are currently working in their countries of origin. The figure shows there are new countries, where astronomy was not very developed, that are becoming active astronomical poles in their region.

Notes

- 1 <https://www.inaoep.mx/~isya2023/>
- 2 <https://isya2023.sao.ac.za/>

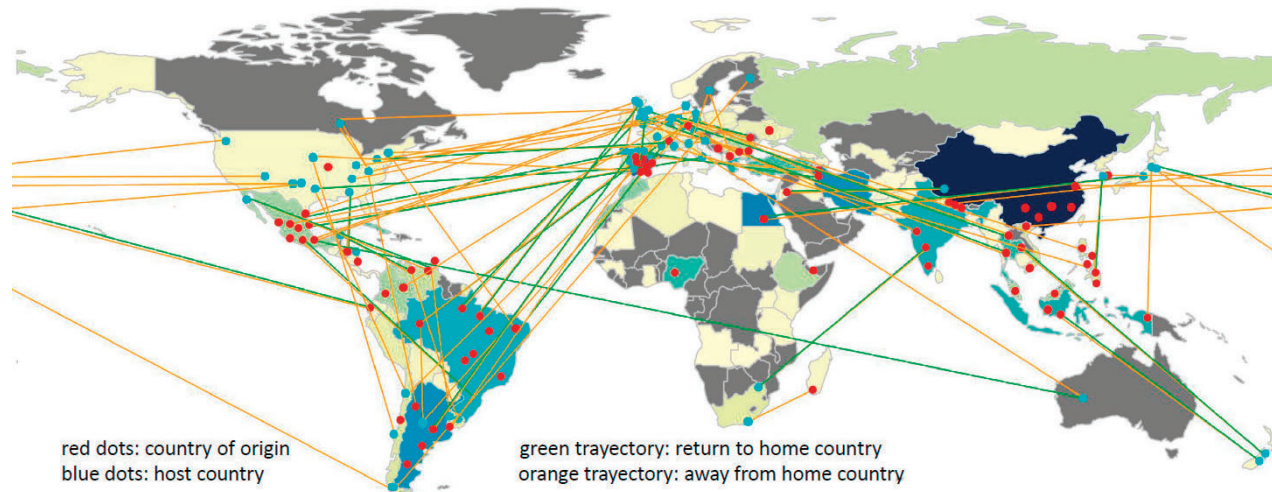


Figure 1: Mobility map for ISYA alumni 1967-2014 that replied to the OYA survey. The colours in the map represent the number of schools organised in the 27 ISYA host countries, from yellow (1) to deep blue (5). Red dots represent the home country of the alumni; blue dots the host country; orange lines are out of the home country trajectories; and green lines are back to home country trajectories. Credit: IAU/OYA