



The CERN Schools of Computing in a nutshell

Since the early seventies CERN has organized the CERN Schools of Computing (CSC), usually held in August/September. They last two weeks and are open to postgraduate students and research workers with a few years of experience in elementary particle physics, in computing or in related fields. Attendance ranges from 70 to 80 students, typically of 15 to 25 different nationalities.

Objectives of the school

The school aims at creating a common technical culture in scientific computing among young scientists and engineers involved in particle physics or in sister experimental disciplines, as a strategic direction to favour mobility and to facilitate the development of large computing-based transnational projects.

Theory and practice, Advanced Environment



The two-week programme of the CSC series is comprised of a series of lectures and hand-on exercises.

The hands-on part is a central component of the school, and is often structured in the form of projects to be carried out by groups of students. To this end, a computing infrastructure is created on the site of the school.

Examination and Certificate

A final examination is proposed to students. In case of success, formal certificates of proficiency are delivered by CERN. These may be used by some participants, who are also engaged in university curricula, to obtain credits.

Who are the CSC students?



Students apply to the CSC from all over the world. The selection process takes into account the technical background of the applicants, their age, areas of work and interest, expectations, geographical origin and gender.

Origin of students over the past eight years (55 nationalities):

*Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, **Bosnia & Herzegovina**, Bulgaria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cameroon, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, **New Zealand**, Norway, Pakistan, People's Republic of China, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, South Africa, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Ukraine, USA, Venezuela*

Facts and figures

Since 1970, 30 schools have been organized in 19 different countries, attended by a total of 1947 students. Since the inception of the CSC examination in 2002, 343 participants have successfully passed and took the CERN School of Computing diploma.

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