



The CERN School of Computing in a nutshell

Since the early seventies CERN has organized the CERN School of Computing (CSC), in one of the CERN Member States. CSCs, usually held in August/September, 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.

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. One outcome is to leave at the end of the school an advanced technical environment, which may benefit the local university or institute, such as local GRID systems, connected to the European DataGrid infrastructure.

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 seven years (49 nationalities):

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cameroon, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Korea, Japan, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, 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

European Union support



For the period 2004-2007, CSCs are supported by the European Union as part of the FP6 Marie-Curie Conference and Training Courses actions.

As a result, participants who satisfy the EU eligibility conditions may receive grants to cover part or all of the Fees and Living Expenses as well as part or all of their Travel Expenses.