

SCHOOL

XXII INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL OF ASTROBIOLOGY  
"JOSEP COMAS I SOLÀ"

Searching for  
extraterrestrial life:  
challenges, methods  
and instruments

**Horario y dirección de contacto**

Mañana de L a V: 9.00 a 14.00 h

**Santander**

Campus de Las Llamas  
Avda. de los Castros, 42  
39005 Santander  
Tlf.: 942 29 87 00

**Madrid**

C/ de Isaac Peral, 23  
28040 Madrid  
Tlf.: 91 592 06 31 / 33

**A partir del 22 de junio**

Mañana de L a V: 9.00 a 14.00 h  
Tarde de L a J: 15.30 a 18.00 h

**Santander**

Palacio de la Magdalena  
39005 Santander  
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Patrocinio:



Este curso es susceptible de ser reconocido como formación permanente del profesorado para el personal docente de los centros que imparten las enseñanzas reguladas en la Ley Orgánica 2/2006, de Educación, en base al artículo 21 y 29 de la Orden EDU/2886/2011, de 20 de octubre, por la que se regula la convocatoria, reconocimiento, certificación y registro de las actividades de formación permanente del profesorado.

Código 667H - ECTS: 2,5

**Directors**

Tori Hoehler

NASA Ames Associate, USA

Víctor Parro García

Centro de Astrobiología (CAB)  
CSIC-INTA, Madrid, Spain

**Organization**

José A. Caballero

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Some of the essential questions in astrobiology include: What is life? How and why did life arise? Is life a necessary consequence of the physical and chemical evolution of planets? Does life exist or has it existed in places beyond Earth? The 22nd edition of the Josep Comas i Solà International Astrobiology Summer School will address different aspects of the search for life beyond Earth in our Solar System, the methods and instruments used in current and future missions, as well as the many scientific and external challenges facing the scientific and technological community. The school is also a forum for meeting and promoting the evernecessary transatlantic dialogue.

For one week four outstanding experts in the field –two American and two European– will lecture and guide discussion with 40 graduate students on key aspects on space missions to Mars and the icy moons of the Solar System, the challenges and future of their exploration, how extraterrestrial material from meteorites, asteroids, sample return, curation, etc. can help in searching for life, and many more.

The Josep Comas i Solà Astrobiology School is a unique forum to foster and consolidate transatlantic relationships through science and culture. We hope you will join us!

**Apertura matrícula**

Desde el día 13 de abril de 2026  
(plazas limitadas)

Solicitud  
online





## Monday 29 June

- 10.00 h Welcome lectures  
**Tori Hoehler**  
 NASA Ames Associate  
**Víctor Parro García**  
 Centro de Astrobiología (CAB)  
 CSIC-INTA, Madrid, Spain
- 11.30 h How to search for life beyond Earth by searching for life ON Earth  
**Amy J. Williams**  
 Astraeus Space Institute  
 Department of Geological Sciences  
 University of Florida, Gainesville FL, USA
- 15.30 h Messengers from space: How meteorites and returned samples could inform the search for extraterrestrial life?  
**Vinciane Debaille**  
 Laboratoire G-Time (Geochemistry & Geophysics: Tephra, Isotopes, Minerals and Earthquakes), Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium



## Tuesday 30 June

- 10.00 h Mars, the first half billion years  
**Jorge Vago**  
 Science and Robotic Exploration Directorate, ESTEC, ESA  
 Noordwijk, The Netherlands
- 11.30 h From Lab to Launch: What does it take to fly your science?  
**Melissa G. Trainer**  
 Planetary Environments Laboratory, Goddard Space Flight Center  
 Greenbelt MD, USA
- 15.30 h The Evolution of the Search for Life on Mars  
**Amy J. Williams**
- 17.30 h Outer solar system exploration for Astrobiology: Targets, goals, missions  
**Melissa G. Trainer**



## Thursday 2 July

- 10.00 h Searching for Life on Mars with Rosalind Franklin  
**Jorge Vago**
- 11.30 h Planetary protection and sample curation: Safeguarding science in the search for extraterrestrial life  
**Vinciane Debaille**
- 15.30 h Round Table  
**Amy J. Williams**  
**Vinciane Debaille**  
**Jorge Vago**  
**Melissa G. Trainer**
- 17.00 h Actividad cultural abierta al público: La misión Rosalind Franklin, de la Agencia Espacial Europea (ESA), para la búsqueda de vida en Marte  
**Jorge Vago**



## Wednesday 1 July

- 09.00 Field trip: Excursion to Zumaia Flysch (whole day)  
**Koenraad Van den Driessche**  
 Paseando en el tiempo, Beasaín, Spain



## Friday 3 July

- 10.00 h Students presentations
- 11.30 h Synthesis + diplomas
- 12.00 h Adjourn



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 Accede a las retransmisiones en streaming de los cursos y actividades en uimptv.es

