XXII INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ASTROBIOLOGY
"JOSEP COMAS I SOLÀ"
Searching for extraterrestrial life: challenges, methods and instruments

Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo (UIMP)
Palacio de la Magdalena, 39005 Santander, Spain
29 June-03 July 2026

Sponsors

Centro de Astrobiología (CAB), CSIC-INTA
NASA
ESA
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Directors

Britney E. Schmidt
Astronomy and Earth & Atmospheric Science
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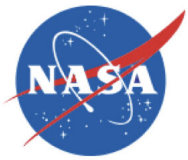

ASTROBIOLOGY at NASA
LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE

CENTRO DE ASTROBIOLOGÍA · CAB
ASOCIADO AL NASA ASTROBIOLOGY PROGRAM
CSIC INTA

UIMP Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo

Instituto Nacional de Técnica Aeroespacial

Lecturers

Vinciane Debaille
Laboratoire G-Time (Geochemistry & Geophysics: Tephra, Isotopes, Minerals and Earthquakes), Université Libre de Bruxelles,
Bruxelles, Belgium

Melissa G. Trainer
Planetary Environments Laboratory, Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt MD, USA

Jorge Vago
Science and Robotic Exploration Directorate, ESTEC, ESA
Noordwijk, The Netherlands

Amy J. Williams
Astraeus Space Institute & Department of Geological Sciences, University of Florida
Gainesville FL, USA

Monday 29 June

10:00 Welcome lectures
Britney E. Schmidt
Cornell University, USA
Víctor Parro
Centro de Astrobiología, Spain

11:30 *How to search for life beyond Earth by searching for life ON Earth*
Amy J. Williams
University of Florida, USA

15:30 *Messengers from space: How meteorites and returned samples could inform the search for extraterrestrial life?*
Vinciane Debaille
Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

Tuesday 30 June

10:00 *Mars, the first half billion years*
Jorge Vago
ESA, Netherlands

11:30 *From Lab to Launch: What does it take to fly your science?*
Melissa G. Trainer
NASA Goddard, USA

15:30 *The Evolution of the Search for Life on Mars*
Amy J. Williams
University of Florida, USA

17:30 *Outer solar system exploration for Astrobiology: Targets, goals, missions*
Melissa G. Trainer
NASA Goddard, USA

Wednesday 1 July

09:00 *Field trip: Excursion to Zumaia Flysch* (whole day)
Koenraad Van den Driessche
Paseando en el tiempo, Beasaín, Spain

Thursday 2 July

10:00 *Searching for Life on Mars with Rosalind Franklin*
Jorge Vago
ESA, Netherlands

11:30 *Planetary protection and sample curation: Safeguarding science in the search for extraterrestrial life*
Vinciane Debaille
Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

15:30 Workshop: *How to make a planetary exploration mission*
(preparation of student projects)
All lecturers and directors

17:00 Actividad cultural abierta al público: *La misión Rosalind Franklin, de la Agencia Espacial Europea (ESA), para la búsqueda de vida en Marte*
Jorge Vago
ESA, Netherlands

Friday 3 July

10:00 Students presentations

11:30 Synthesis + diplomas

12:00 Adjourn