

## PC16 : Stage@Tor Vergata University

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### ABSTRACT

The “Stage @ Tor Vergata” is a project involving high-schools and the University of Rome “Tor Vergata”. The project foresees the participation of motivated, high-school students in Dept.’s research groups and the preparation by them of an essay - to be submitted to the national state examination - on the assigned research topics. In this respect, the project provides a unique tool for developing specific skills in a Physics or Biology lab., and for autonomously and critically elaborating the topics learned during the stage.

The project is based on laboratory experiments in physics, astrophysics, forensic anthropology and their communication. The topics are chosen by the Tor Vergata research groups, in connection with their scientific activities. Students is assigned to a lecturer of the Tor Vergata and to his/her research group.

The project is divided in two phases: a Summer Stage and Winter Stage - 5 full days each. This year we have 5 research groups for 5 modules of 30 hours each (10 of theory, 20 of lab.’s activities): Astronomical Techniques for Solar Physics; Optical Devices for ICT; Forensic Anthropology; Astrobiology; Scientific Communication and Public Outreach.

The original aspect of the project is to provide students with a methodology which step by step:

- i) identifies a research question;
  - ii) uses an experimental activity targeted to answer the research question;
  - iii) analyzes experimental data to enable students to formulate a scientific conclusions.
- Here we want to present some specific aspects of the laboratorial activities and of our self-evaluation of the “Stage@Tor Vergata”.

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