

Bringing astronomy to schools in Colombia

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on behalf of RECA (Colombian astronomy students network)

MW-Gaia: Bringing the Milky Way to schools 2021

2-4 June 2021



Red de Estudiantes Colombianos de Astronomía

Colombian Astronomy Students Network

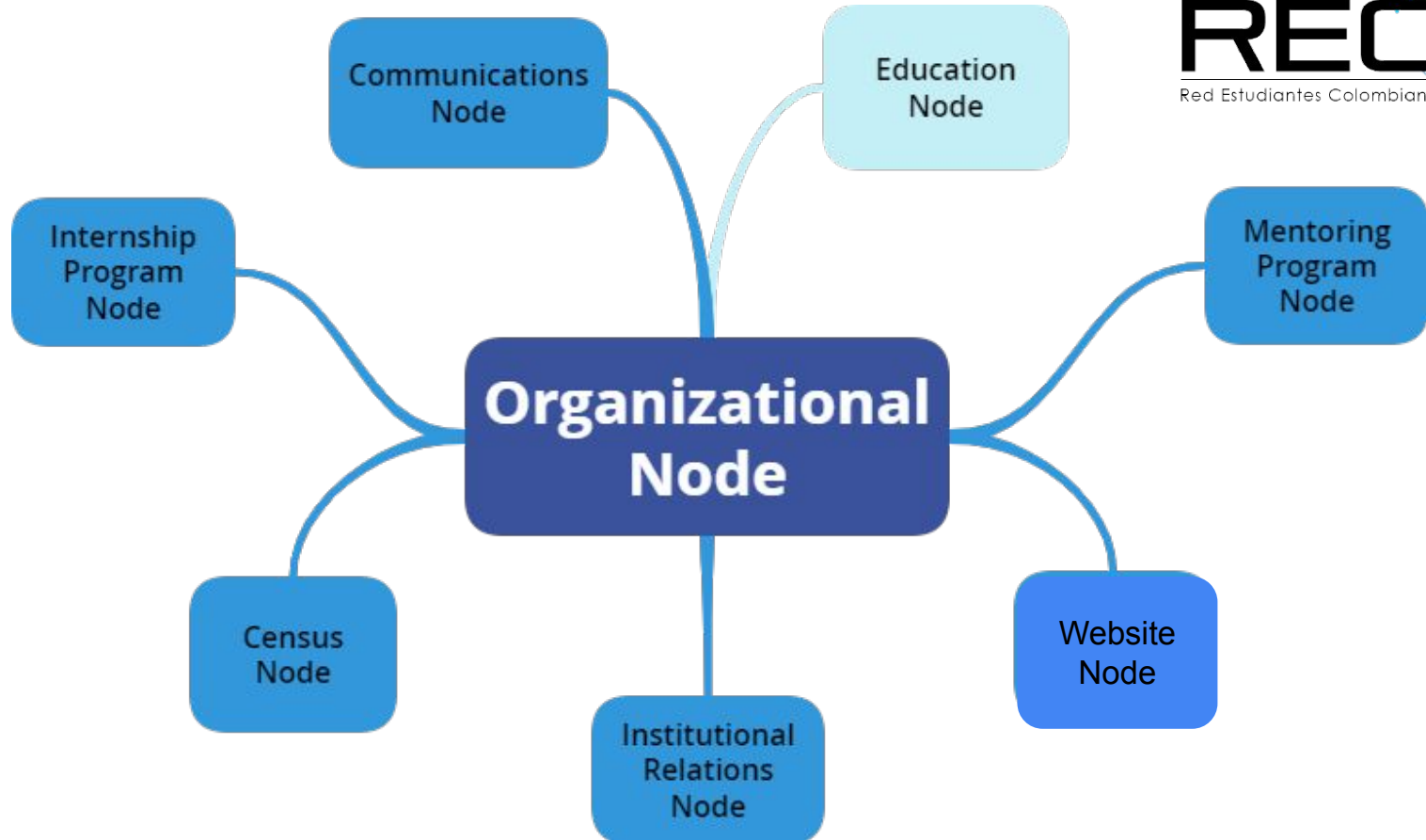
RECA is an association that seeks to create and maintain strong links between astronomy students in Colombia.

It began in the framework of the III Colombian Congress of Astronomy (**COCOA**) in 2012.



It is part of the Community of Astronomers of Colombia (**AstroCO**) since 2021, which in turn is part of the Colombian Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences (ACCEFYN).

Structure





Mentoring Program

Of the barriers in Colombia, to do a postgraduate degree in astronomy are:

- Lack of information
- No guidance during undergraduate studies

In **2020** we made the first program

Astronomers in
training



Advanced
Astronomers



Guide students in the process of applying to graduate programs

Mentoring Program



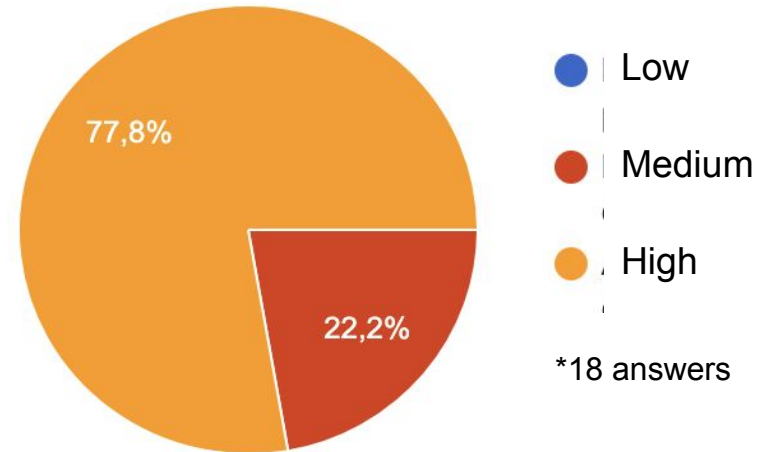
Mentees

- **24** mentees.
- 89% undergraduate, 11% graduate students, Master.
- 13 Institutions.
- **50%** Men, **50%** Women.

Mentors

- **24** mentors
- 48% PhD students, 22% postdocs, 30% researchers, professors.
- 22 Institutions (18 internationals)

1 to 5: How do you rate the help your mentor has given you?



→ **12** Applications Inter. Universities => **8** acceptations letters

Internship Program

Promote scientific research in areas of

Astronomy

Astrophysics

Cosmology

Students create collaborative networks with national and international astronomers.

Improve students' skills

Maximize the scope of research opportunities throughout the country.

Dirigido a estudiantes universitarios de instituciones colombianas

Contribuye a tu formación académica haciendo parte de un proyecto de investigación en astronomía y cosmología durante 10 semanas entre mayo y agosto del 2021

INTERNSHIP EN ASTRONOMÍA RECA 2021

Inscripciones y más información en:

<https://recastronomia.github.io/internship/>

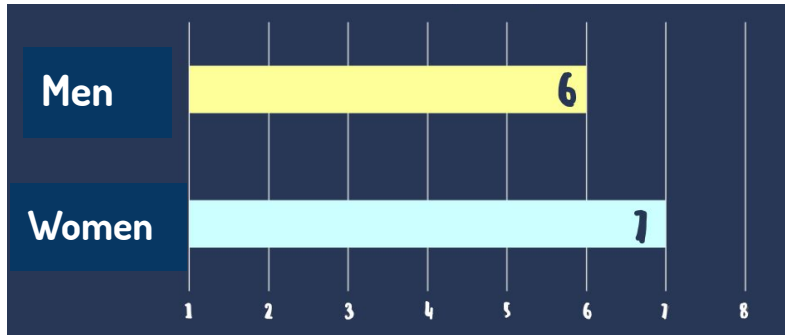


Fecha límite para la postulación:

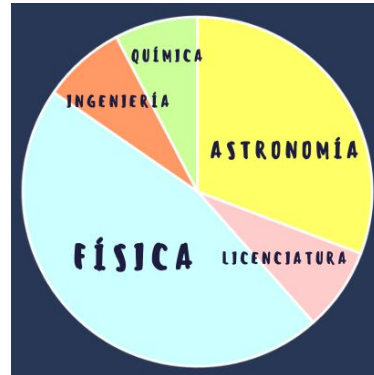
Viernes 30 de abril 2021

Internship Program

- **+60** applications.
- **13** research projects.
- Supervisors from **10** different countries.
- Applications from different regions of the Country.



*Selected students



Education Program

- Bring Astronomy to schools in all regions of Colombia.
- Bogotá and Medellín are the main cities in Colombia where astronomy programs are available for school and universities.
- Collaborate with the OAE-Colombia branch.



Credit: Observatory at Abraham Maslow School, Bogotá.
<http://www.colegiomaslow.edu.co/colegio-maslow/observatorio-astronomico/>

Pilot Program with Abraham Maslow School in Bogota

- Teach students how to exploit the resources they have at school:
 - Observatory with Celestron 14" Telescope and CCD camera.
 - Celestron 8" Telescope.
 - Weather Station.
 - Future: Radio Antenna.
- Guide students on their High School Thesis.
- Make more projects with external resources: e.g. **GAIA!**
- Interview an astronomer (Primary School).



Credit: Abraham Maslow Observatory
<https://observatorio.colegiomaslow.edu.co/sample-page/>

Future Projects

- Help the already established astronomy seminars in schools (e.g. Gimnasio Campestre).
 - Make project on comet trajectory calculations.
- Help to build new seminars in other schools in Colombia.
 - Make material available in the form of workshops.

New ideas are welcome!



Credit: Students making a sundial at the Abraham Maslow School
<https://observatorio.colegiomaslow.edu.co/galeria/>

Thanks!

<https://recastronomia.github.io/>



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