

# ESA's 5th Earth Observation Summer School

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The 5<sup>th</sup> ESA Earth Observation Summer School on Earth System Monitoring and Modelling was an extraordinary experience where, for two intense weeks, I was able to learn about cutting-edge scientific subjects in the area of Earth Observation.

During the mornings, we heard very interesting lectures from top-level researchers in their fields of Earth Observation. Oceanography is my area of study and this summer school was great because it provided me with an overview of several different areas of remote sensing apart from my speciality. Also, by going deeper in my area, it presented me with plenty of great new ideas to enhance my current research.

In the afternoon, there were practical computing exercises on the processing of Earth Observation data given by specialists on computer-based learning. This was a great way of getting some hands-on experience on data assimilation and remote sensing data analysis. Although I wasn't familiar with some of the software used to solve the exercises, this was a good way to get to know other ways of processing this type of data.

After the practical sessions, there was a half of an hour reserved for the poster session. This session format gave us the opportunity to present our own work and discuss it with the other participants and lecturers. Also, I would like to highlight that the format of this Summer School provides the opportunity to discuss topics of actual scientific work with lecturers and with the other students during the official programme as well as during the evenings spent at the Hotel Villa Tuscolana. Because most students, lecturers and staff were hosted at the same hotel it was possible for all to interact together in a comfortable and informal environment, taking many of the discussions started during the day to the dinner table.

The strong program of Earth Observation as well as the amazing social atmosphere between students, lecturers and staff made this summer school unforgettable. It was really great getting to know so many people with so different backgrounds. I made a lot of friends during these two weeks. I believe that this summer school definitely helped to start building a network of young scientists who pursue the same scientific goal, Earth Observation.

The Summer School was a truly unique experience and I highly recommend it to everyone interested in any field of Earth Observation.