

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
In Orbit - Postgraduate Space Education (4)

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THE INCORPORATION OF POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS INTO MARS SCIENCE AT THE
NATIONAL SPACE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
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Abstract

At the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU), students of a broad spectrum of STEM disciplines are eligible for MSc studentships at the National Space Science and Technology Center (NSSTC). The MSc studentships are funded by NSSTC and directed by the College of Graduate Studies, UAEU. The funding period is two years and includes the thesis work of students. The latter is supervised jointly by NSSTC researchers and university professors.

MSc studentship holders are given the opportunity to work part-time at NSSTC and be involved in ongoing research and development projects. As a result, students gain in-depth experience by accomplishing research tasks and presenting their results to the scientific community. Also, students are exposed to the typical challenges of project related work such as teamwork, individual productivity, problem solving, communication of ideas, time management, etc.. Moreover, students are encouraged regarding scientific specialization and doctoral studies. Compliant with that, MSc studentships have significant potential in the integration of the next generation and diversification of the scientific community.

The primary focus of MSc studentships is elective. One option is Mars Science. This presentation provides an overview on associated efforts to integrate postgraduate students into Mars Science at NSSTC/UAEU. In line with that, MSc studentships are also interesting for developing capacity for ongoing/upcoming Mars missions. In addition, they build upon activities to introduce UAEU undergraduate students into the field of Mars Science. These activities will be reviewed in the light of the newly initiated UAEU postgraduate study program “Master of Science in Space Science” and the MSc studentships.