

About IAU 100 Years Celebrations

What is the IAU100?

In 2019, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) is celebrating its 100th anniversary (IAU100). To commemorate this milestone, the IAU is organising a year-long celebration to increase awareness of a century of astronomical discoveries as well as to support and improve the use of astronomy as a tool for education, development and diplomacy under the central theme „Under One Sky”.

Who is running IAU100?

To coordinate the initiative, the IAU has teamed up with worldwide partners and has set up the IAU100 Task Force as well as the IAU100 Secretariat based at Leiden Observatory (The Netherlands). The task force is preparing a comprehensive programme of Flagship initiatives to reach targeted audiences worldwide through the IAU100 National Committees to ensure the worldwide success of the initiative.

When will events begin?

The IAU100 Events are officially launched at the IAU General Assembly in Vienna (Austria) in August 2018 and they will run throughout 2019.

How will it achieve its goals?

By organizing projects around the world, the centennial celebrations will stimulate worldwide interest in astronomy and science and will reach out to the global astronomical community, national science organisations, and societies, policy-makers, students, families and the general public.

Where can I find information?

The IAU100 Secretariat has set up a website that details more information about the IAU100 and its events, see www.iau.org/iau100 for the latest updates on the initiative.

How can I get Involved?

To get involved or to learn more about the IAU100 activities, please contact the Secretariat at rivero@strw.leidenuniv.nl or visit the website www.iau.org/iau100.

Partners and Sponsorship Opportunities

The IAU100 celebrations will reach a worldwide audience of millions of astronomers, industry leaders, educators, and more. These events are supported by organisations around the world and we welcome inquiries from both the public and private-sector to get involved and to demonstrate support for the aims of the IAU100 celebrations. For inquiries about such partnership opportunities, please contact the IAU100 Secretariat.

IAU100 Partners

IAU100 Global Sponsor



IAU100 Organisational Associates








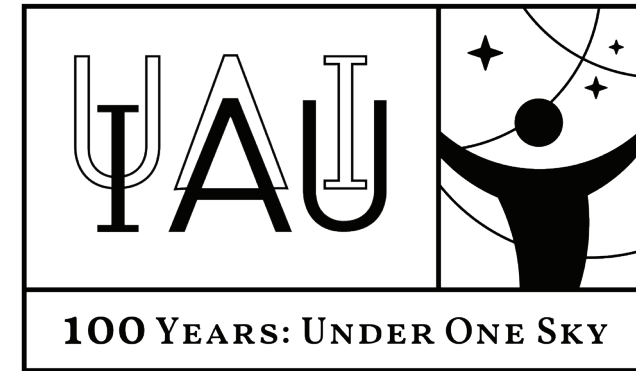
Contact

If you have any further questions, comments or ideas, don't hesitate to reach out to the IAU100 Secretariat at:

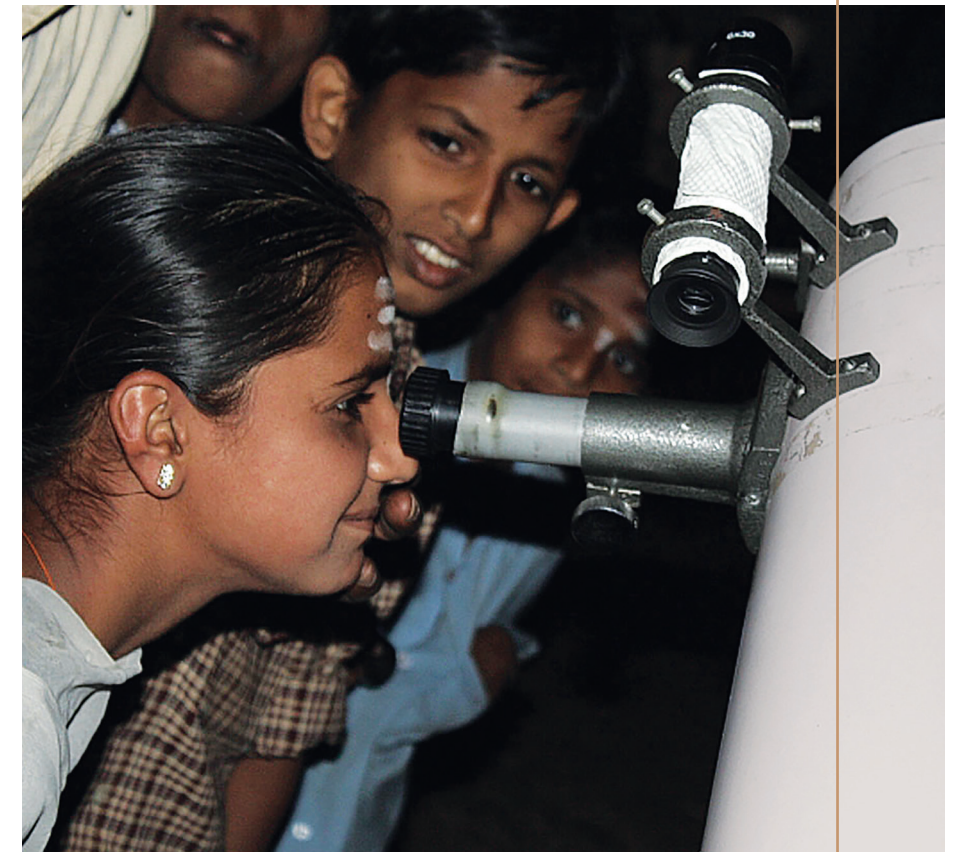
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International Astronomical Union
1919 – 2019



Milestones

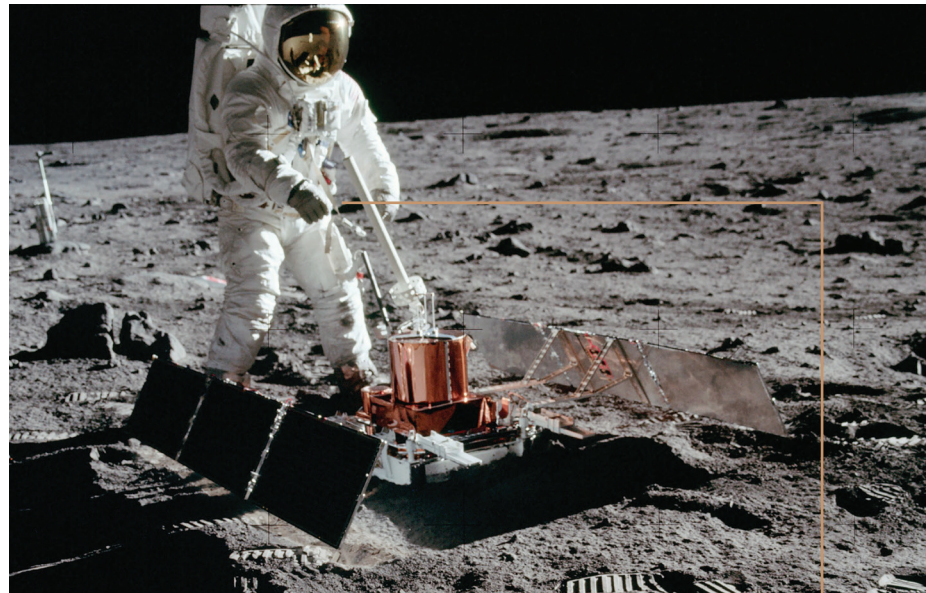
In addition to marking the 100th anniversary of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), there are also two important milestones that will be celebrated in 2019:

100th Anniversary of Einstein's Eclipse

During a total solar eclipse in 1919, the first experimental test of Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity was conducted. British astronomer Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington's expedition supported Einstein's prediction that gravitational fields can disrupt spacetime by illustrating that light bend around massive objects (today known as gravitational lensing).

50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing

On 20 July 1969, a historical milestone took place: Neil Armstrong became the person to set foot on the Moon. This moment was integral and influential for astronomy and space travel research. Not only does this event hold importance for the space industry, but also for humankind. This huge achievement allowed for the conception and development of more human spaceflight missions.



Apollo 11 astronaut in the Moon. Credit: NASA.

IAU100 Global Projects

The IAU is organising a year-long celebration to increase awareness of a century of astronomical discoveries. Events will be organised around the world. Here are just some of the events being planned for IAU100:

NameExoWorlds II

An initiative that aims to contribute to the fraternity of all the people with a significant token of global identity by providing the opportunity to all countries in the world to name one exoplanet.

Dark Skies for All

This effort will raise awareness about the preservation of quiet and dark skies. The project will encourage the organization of worldwide activities around the UNESCO International Day of Light 16 May.

IAU100 Open Astronomy Schools

This project will build teachers capacity on scientific topics and teaching techniques by organizing teacher trainings worldwide that enable the development of scientific literacy and acquisition of 21st century skills.

IAU Women and Girls in Astronomy Day

This project will celebrate globally the United Nations International Day of Women and Girls in Science on February 11th through the organization of activities involving astronomy.

Moon Landing 50th Anniversary

We will encourage people worldwide to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Moon landing in 20 July 2019 by organising Moon observations.

IAU Einstein Schools

The initiative will develop a global network of Einstein schools with classes and clubs learning about gravitation and general relativity and their relevance to the 1919 solar eclipse.

Above and Beyond Exhibition

The exhibition takes the visitor on a chronological journey through a century of scientific, technological and cultural advancements in astronomy in the past century. The exhibition opened during the IAU General Assembly in Vienna (Austria) in August and will travel to selected venues in 2019. All of its content and designs is available under an open source license for further reuse worldwide.

100 Hours of Astronomy 2.0

This project invites anyone to arrange star-gazing and other astronomy-related events around the world on 18-21 January 2019 to kick-off the anniversary celebrations. The goal of the project is to enable as many people as possible, especially children, to look at the sky through a telescope and gain a basic understanding of the Universe. There will be the opportunity to win exciting prizes for the organization of most interesting events.



Gazing into the deep universe. Credit: ESO/B. Tafreshi (twanight.org).