



Padova, 3 maggio 2024

UNIVERSITY OF PADUA JOINS USRA, THE UNIVERSITIES SPACE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

First in Italy, the University of Padua has joined USRA, the Universities Space Research Association. USRA is an internationally renowned **non-profit organization based in the United States and founded in 1969 to advance space-related science, technology and engineering.**

USRA operates forefront scientific institutes and facilities, and conducts major research and educational programmes to foster scientific and technological cooperation among its members.

At the Annual Meeting of its Council of Institutions held on 22 March 2024, **USRA elected the University of Padua to the Association**, approving the application submitted by the University.

USRA counts among its members 120 universities representing scientific excellence in space-related disciplines, spread over four continents, with eight of them so far in Europe.

The eligibility criteria for USRA membership include demonstrated significant contributions in space or aerospace research by faculty, and a substantial commitment to a course of studies and dissertation research leading to the doctorate in one or more related fields: with more than 100 PhD students enrolled over the last five years in the doctoral programmes of main relevance for USRA (such as the doctoral programmes in Physics and Astronomy in the University Department of Physics and Astronomy and the doctoral programme in Sciences, Technologies and Measurements for Space in the Centre of Studies and Activities for Space - CISAS), over 70 graduate-level courses and over 20 doctoral courses offered in space-related disciplines in the last five years, the application of the University of Padua has been enthusiastically welcomed.

Joining USRA plays a strategic role for the University of Padua to foster synergies within a **global community of shared knowledge** in the field of space-science, with possible benefits also for the research agencies and private companies operating in its surroundings. **Today, as the planet has become globalized and as rapid and profound changes are, in large measure, driven by advances in science, technology and knowledge,** being part of a scientific ecosystem such as USRA will be crucial in providing the academic community in Padua with new opportunities and knowledge that may further stimulate its excellence in space-related disciplines.