



A Critical Moment for ISU: A Call to the Global Community

Dear ISU Global Community,

Across the world, I regularly hear a phrase that never fails to move me:

“ISU changed my life.”

For nearly four decades, the International Space University has been transforming lives and shaping the global space sector. Our alumni network now includes more than **6,000 professionals across more than 110 countries**, many of whom are leaders in industry, government, academia, and entrepreneurship.

ISU was founded on a unique educational philosophy built around the three “I”s: **Interdisciplinary, International, and Intercultural**. These principles define how we educate and collaborate across borders and disciplines. In 2024, we proudly added a fourth “I” — **Innovation** — reflecting the rapid transformation of the global space economy and ISU’s commitment to preparing the next generation of leaders in the New Space era.

While ISU’s mission and impact have always been strong, the university has historically operated within a challenging financial model. For decades, ISU has depended significantly on institutional support—particularly from space agencies—to provide scholarships that enable talented individuals from around the world to participate in our programs.

Today, the global funding landscape is changing.

Due to circumstances outside of our control, the French space agency **CNES (Centre National d’Études Spatiales)** will no longer be able to continue its financial support for ISU, and there is uncertainty regarding the continuation of support from the **European Space Agency (ESA)**. Historically, these contributions have played a critical role in providing scholarship funding for ISU students.

For this reason, ISU is launching the **ISU Global Scholarship Campaign**, an effort to raise **€1.5 million in 2026** dedicated entirely to student scholarships for our upcoming programs. I am writing to invite members of the ISU global community to help ensure that talented individuals from around the world can continue to participate in ISU’s life-changing educational experience.

Scholarships are not simply financial aid at ISU—they are the engine that enables global participation.

For every **€1 of scholarship funding received**, ISU receives an additional **€1.40 in tuition revenue**. Without donor-funded scholarships, many admitted candidates simply **cannot enroll**.

As a result of the loss of historical scholarship funding, ISU is anticipating a projected **tuition revenue gap of €2.8M–€3.4M this year**, which directly impacts our ability to successfully deliver the **Space Studies Program (SSP) in Summer 2026** and the **Master of Space Studies (MSS) program beginning in September 2026**.

I want to communicate openly and transparently with our community about this challenge. But more importantly, this moment presents an opportunity for the extraordinary **ISU global network to come together in support of the institution that has given so much to so many**.

During my presidency, ISU developed the most comprehensive strategic plan in its history: **MOON SHOT 2030**. This plan positions ISU to become **financially self-sustaining by the end of this decade**, built on three strategic pillars:

Revenue Diversification

Expanding educational programs, executive education, global events, and professional services.

Philanthropic Support

Engaging our alumni community and launching a global fundraising campaign.

Grant Acquisition

Pursuing research, infrastructure, technology, and workforce development funding.

While this strategy is already underway, **we must first bridge the present moment**.

Today, we are launching the **ISU Global Scholarship Campaign**, a community-driven effort with a clear and focused objective:

Raise €1.5 million in 2026 dedicated entirely to student scholarships for SSP26 and MSS27.

Every euro raised will be allocated **100% to scholarships**, ensuring that talented individuals from around the world can participate in ISU programs and benefit from the life-changing experience that so many of you have shared.

If ISU changed your life, I invite you to **help ensure it can change lives for the next generation of space leaders**. Every contribution—no matter the size—makes a meaningful difference and helps ensure that talented students from around the world can participate in ISU programs.

Contributions of all levels are welcome. As a reference:

- **€25,000** – Supports a major student scholarship
- **€10,000** – Supports a partial scholarship
- **€5,000** – Expands access for a talented student

- **€1,000** – Contributes directly to the scholarship pool
- **€250 or €100** – Helps support student participation
- **Any amount** – Every euro contributes to opening the door for the next generation of space leaders

You can also support this effort by:

- Encouraging your organization to sponsor scholarships
- Connecting ISU with philanthropic partners or foundations
- Mobilizing fellow alumni and colleagues
- Sharing this message across the global ISU network

As we look ahead, ISU will celebrate its **40th Anniversary in April 2027**—a milestone that reflects four decades of educating and inspiring leaders in the global space sector. This anniversary will be an opportunity not only to celebrate ISU’s remarkable legacy, but also to ensure that the next generation of space leaders can benefit from the same life-changing experience.

ISU has always been more than a university. It is a **global community united by a shared passion for space and a belief in collaboration across disciplines, cultures, and nations.**

Now is the moment for that community to come together and help ensure that ISU continues to educate and inspire the leaders who will shape the future of humanity in space.

If ISU changed your life, I invite you to help ensure that it can continue changing lives for decades to come.

Together, we can secure the future of the **International Space University.**

With appreciation and determination,

John Wensveen, Ph.D.

President

International Space University

P.S. If just **1,500 members of the ISU global community contributed €1,000 each**, we would reach our **€1.5M goal** and fully fund scholarships for the next generation of ISU students.

As President of ISU, I am proud to begin this effort with my own personal contribution of **€1,000**, and I invite you to join me and others across the ISU community who are stepping forward to support the future of our university.