

PAN Intersession @ IMSA, Aurora IL

Building upon the success of PIXE-PAN at ND and PAN at MSU, a PAN intersession was taught at IMSA, a 3-year residential high school for Illinois students gifted in math and science. Intersessions are week-long courses taught by IMSA alumni and faculty prior to the start of the spring semester. 16 students signed up for the PAN course, choosing from a wide range of offered subjects.

JINA partnered with QuarkNet which provided the cosmic ray muon detectors (CRMDs) and on-line interface for analyzing data. Modeled after PAN at MSU, the mornings were reserved for interactive lectures, while the afternoons were spent assembling, testing, and conducting experiments with CRMDs. Students performed four experiments, including measuring the lifetime of the muon and a student designed experiment. The last afternoon was reserved for presentations. According to pre/post surveys, the intersession increased the students interest in science, and gave them a better understanding of what a career in scientific research entails.

One response to the valuable assets of the course: *"We performed real experiments and were able to observe the things we learned about in action."*



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