

## **Chris Hadfield**

Have you ever dreamed of doing something that makes you want to perform handstands and laugh? Well Chris Hadfield has. As a young man, with a true passion for flying, he dreamed of being an astronaut. Then he was chosen to train by NASA in the early 1990s and went on to be the chief of the International Space Station operations in 2001. Later in 2012, he spent five months on (ISS) and became an internet sensation through his twitter feeds. Since leaving NASA he has become a professor in Ontario Canada.

### **Early years**

Chris Hadfield was born on August 29 1959 in Sarnia Canada. Although raised on a rural farm he was a fanatical sportsman, by his mid-teens was an accomplished skier but flying was his true passion and he had already began to dream of being an astronaut. At 19, he joined the Canadian Armed Forces, training as a fighter pilot, spending two years at Military College in Victoria, British Columbia. He then followed that up with two years at Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario, where he earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1982 whilst performing research work with NASA.

### **Pioneering Canadian Astronaut**

By the early 1990s, Chris had flown more than 70 different kinds of aircraft and earned a name for himself—within military circles— in both Canada and the United States. Because of this, he was chosen from 5,330 applicants to become one of four Canadian astronauts in June 1992 and was stationed at NASA's Johnson Space Agency in Houston, Texas. Over the next two decades Hadfield full field many important roles within the space program including chief of International Space Station operations at the Johnson space centre. In addition to this, he became the first Canadian to freely float in space in 2001

### **Global Star**

In December 2012, Hadfield embarked on the most challenging mission of his life: Along with two other astronauts, he departed on a Russian spacecraft for a five-month stay at the International Space Station. Shortly before departing he laughed "To be able to command the space station, yes, it's professional, but for me, as just a Canadian kid, it makes me want to shout and laugh and do cartwheels." Over the next months, Hadfield enthralled space enthusiasts with his Twitter feeds, offering insight into life aboard the station whilst taking and sharing stunning images of the universe around him. He also recorded a video of David Bowie's 'space oddity', which has received more than 7 million hits on you tube, Hadfield returned safely to Earth on May 13, 2013

### **Life after space**

Shortly after returning, Hadfield announced his retirement from the space program and returned to his native Canada. On 8 October 2013, the University of Waterloo, Ontario Canada, announced that he would join them as a professor. He is now an adviser in their aviation program as well as assisting in ongoing research regarding the health of astronauts with their Faculty of Applied Health Sciences.