

8 PhD positions available within the *ICFOstepstone* fellowship program (MCSA-COFUND action at ICFO)

ICFO is offering 8 PhD positions to well-qualified graduate students, who wish to obtain a doctoral degree in any of the research fields covered at ICFO.

The positions are offered in the scope of the *ICFOstepstone* Program, a MCSA-COFUND action of the European Commission, awarding INCOMING Fellowships to outstanding graduate students. The program will bring together top-level training and teaching for young scientists in a stimulating, international and interdisciplinary environment. It will offer the possibility of mobility within a network of excellence, consisting in partners of national and international research institutes and universities, as well as industrial partners in the field.

PhD students at ICFO benefit from the extensive course offerings of local universities and focused instruction by ICFO professors. Research is carried out at ICFO.

Fellowships will be offered across all ICFO research groups in the following research areas:

- Biophysics & Biomedical Optics
- Optical Sensing, Optoelectronics & Photovoltaics
- Nonlinear Optics, Ultrafast Optics & Atto-Physics
- Nanophotonics, Optomechanics & Nanomechanics
- Experimental Quantum Optics & Quantum Information
- Theoretical Nanophotonics, Quantum Optics & Quantum Information

For information about our research groups and team, please see <https://icfo.eu/research>.

Note that in addition to the *ICFOstepstone* COFUND positions, additional internal ICFO PhD group positions might become available, for which we may retain candidates applying to this present opening.

Eligibility and conditions

To be **eligible** for an ICFO PhD position, candidates must:

- Have an **internationally-recognized Master-equivalent degree**. The degree must be in a field of science and engineering related to the ICFO research activities. Degrees issued within the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) must have an equivalent to 300 ECTS, out of which a minimum of 60 ECTS must have been obtained in postgraduate studies. Please, if in doubt regarding your academic eligibility, contact us at jobs@icfo.eu.
- Have an **excellent academic record**, previous research experience and a strong commitment for scientific research.
- Have a high working knowledge of **English**.

Additionally, candidates for the *ICFOstepstone* positions must comply with the following EU-rules by the time of activation of the COFUND-PhD:

- **Candidates should not have resided in Spain for more than 12 of the last 36 months.**
- The **Master-equivalent degree should not be older than 4 years**. Exceptions are made for documented periods of parental leave. Other equivalent exceptions may be considered when properly documented and motivated by the applicant, e.g, in case of applicants from underdeveloped countries, minorities, or for applicants that pursued their studies under comparatively unfavourable conditions.

No restrictions of citizenship apply to the ICFO International PhD Fellowship Program. Female graduates are strongly encouraged to apply. Persons with disabilities are also encouraged to apply.

The **conditions** of the *ICFOstepstone* PhD positions are as follows:

- Initial ICFO contract for a period of 6 months, while being pre-admitted to the PhD Program, with an explicit follow-up/ renewal procedure at the end of this first stage. During this period, students already take part in the ICFO working environment, join a research group, and work with their supervisor to define a research project.

- After this initial period, students are formally enrolled in the PhD Program, and the full ICFOstepstone COFUND PhD Fellowship activated. Fellowships are offered for periods of three years, renewable for an additional fourth year, and are formalized via a PhD-contract. Continuity and renewal are subject to satisfactory performance in the PhD studies and related research activities, evaluated annually by the Thesis Director and the ICFO PhD Committee.
- Selected candidates shall start between February and March 2018.
- All ICFO fellowships include medical care coverage and work accident insurance through the Spanish Social Security system, providing access to the Spanish public health care system.
- The ICFOstepstone COFUND fellowship amount is at H2020 MSCA-COFUND level, subject to the stipulated fiscal and social security deductions. Note that these salary conditions are not applicable to those candidates who would potentially be retained for group openings (Standard conditions apply).

Application and selection procedure

To **apply**, suitable candidates are requested to submit (in English) via <http://jobs.icfo.eu> the following material:

- A **Cover Letter** with declaration of research interests,
- A **Curriculum Vitae**, including contact details,
- Scanned copies of the complete (Bachelor and Master equivalent) academic transcripts in English or Spanish,
- Scanned copies of the degree certificates, if available at the time of application,
- **IMPORTANT:** The candidate should contact two referees, who should send their reference letters directly to jobs@icfo.eu before the application deadline. Upon application, the candidate should have indicated these two referees in the online application form, too.
- The print-out of the equivalence calculation accomplished via <http://www.foreigncredits.com/Resources/GPA-Calculator/>
- If available, scanned copy of standardized test results (GRE, TOEFL, etc.). Note that submission of test results is optional, but they can be particularly helpful for evaluating candidates with degrees obtained outside the European Higher Education Area.

All required application material, including letters of reference, must be complete and submitted by deadline in order for the application to be considered.

The deadline for submission of applications for the present call is **September 17, 2017**.

In a first step of the **selection procedure**, applications will be assessed by the selection committee based on merit and potential, measured in terms of the academic record and personal achievements. Academic excellence is a must. Pro-activity, participation in community activities, and capacity for team-work are also taken into account. Applicants will be notified the results of the first evaluation stage by **October 02, 2017**.

Please note that candidates should be willing to be contacted by phone during the entire selection process.

In the second step of the selection procedure, short-listed candidates will receive invitations to visit ICFO for **oral interviews** with the selection committee and ICFO GLs, planned to take place on Thursday, **October 26, 2017**.

The **final list with candidates recommended for fellowship concession**, as well as reserve candidates, will be available in the **week of October 30, 2017**. Being the last condition that shortlisted candidates find a hosting group at ICFO, candidates are asked to contact the Group Leader(s) of choice to negotiate directly a potential PhD in their group, on a COFUND fellowship. Candidates and Group Leader should confirm within one week whether an agreement has been reached. Candidates without a match cannot be confirmed the fellowship.

At all stages of the process, candidates may contact ICFO Human Resources and Education via jobs@icfo.eu; for complete information about the PhD Admissions process at ICFO, please see <http://phd.icfo.eu>.

** The ICFOstepstone Program is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie-COFUND action under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (GA 713729), and will be awarding 25 INCOMING Fellowships to outstanding graduate students in the period 2017 – 2019.*