


# "la Caixa" Foundation Fellowships help to support talented researchers

## Five ICFO PhD students receive fellowships in the framework of the doctoral INPhINIT program and three postdoctoral researchers in the Junior Leader Program

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Eight ICFOnians are among the 105 recipients of doctoral and postdoctoral fellowship from the i¿½la Caixai¿½ Foundation in their most recent calls. . The doctoral INPhINIT and postdoctoral Junior Leader fellowships pursue the twofold aim of supporting young talent to carry out their research in Spain or Portugal and attracting international researchers to t ese countr

**INPhiNIT Doctoral Fellowships**

The 'la Caixa' Foundation received a total of 1,636 applications and awarded 65 fellowship across all disciplines for the INPhINIT Doctoral Fellowships program. ICFO recipients include

Mirko Fornasier: received his Master in Electronic Engineering from the University of Padua

(IT) and is conducting the project titled i¿½Portable, cot-side neuromonitors for pediatr c Applicationsi¿½ in the Medical Optics research group led by ICREA professor at ICFO Dr. Turgut Durduran

**Giacomo Franceschetto**: received his Master in Physics of Data from the University of Padua (IT) and will carry out the project titled i¿½Methods and tools to enhance the current state of quantum computersi¿½ in the Quantum Information Theory group led by ICREA professor at ICFO Dr. Antonio Acin.

**Egle Pagliaro**: received her Master in Physics of Data from the University of Turin (IT) and will carry out the project titled i¿½Complex quantum systems for information processingi¿½ in t Quantum Information Theory group led by ICREA professor at ICFO Dr. Antonio Acin.

**Monica Torrecilla Vall-Llossera** - received her Master in Neuroengineering and Rehabilitation at Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya (ES). She will carry out the project titled i¿½Estimati n of intracranial pressure from non-invasive optical measurements to provide personaliz d treatment in neuropathologiesi¿½ in the Medical Optics research group led by ICREA professor at ICFO Dr. Turgut Durduran

**Bianca Turini**: received her Master in Materials and Nanotechnology at the University of Pisa (IT) and will carry out the project titled i¿½Cavity control of quantum materials with vacu m field engineeringi¿½ in the Quantum Nano-Optoelectronics group led by ICREA professor at ICFO Dr. Frank Koppens.

**Junior Leader Postdoctoral Fellowships**

In total, 547 applications were received and 40 fellowships were awarded in the fields of health and life sciences, technology, physics, engineering, and mathematics. ICFO recipients of Junior Leader Fellowships (2 INCOMING, 1 RETAINING) include:

**Emanuele Distante** defended the doctoral thesis 'A Quantum Light-Matter Interface with Rydberg Polaritons in a Cold Atomic Ensemble' supervised by ICREA professor at ICFO Dr. Hugues de Riedmatten in 2017 after which he carried out his postdoctoral studies at the Max Planck Institute (DE), focusing on quantum optics and quantum information, developing a specialization in recent year in the area of QED cavities. He was awarded an INCOMING Junior Leader fellowship to return to the Quantum Photonics with Solids and Atoms group where he is carrying out the project i¿½Interacting neutral atoms arrays in optical cavityi¿½

**Samuele Grandi** carried out his doctoral studies at Imperial College London and has carried out postdoctoral studies in leading research groups in Italy, France, UK, Japan and Spain. He joined ICFO in 2018 as a postdoctoral research fellow in the Quantum Photonics with Solids and Atoms group led by ICREA professor at ICFO Dr. Hugues de Riedmatten and is currently

leading the solid-state quantum network division at ICFO. With his Junior Leader RETAINING fellowship, he is carrying out the project i¿½Quantum storage of single photons from on-demand sourcei¿½ where he is working to develop single photon sources for quant m memories.

**Michela Picardi** came to ICFO in March 2022 from King's College where she carried out postdoctoral work on theoretical nanophotonics and light-matter interaction. She i currently working on radiative heat transfer for energy applications, within ICFO'sClean Planet Program. She received a Junior Leader INCOMING fellowship to carry out the projec titled i¿½Engineering Near-field Emitters for Radiative HEAt Transferi¿½ in the Thermal Photonics research group led by ICFO professor Dr. Georgia Papadakis.

i¿½la Caixai¿½ Fellowship calls offer competitive salaries and cross-disciplinary training
In the case of doctoral fellowships, complementary training is provided to strengthen uch areas as scientific communication, the researcher's emotional wellbeing, leadership, and opportunities for funding. On the other hand, this training in the postdoctoral fellows ips promotes the independent scientific degree program as an option for a professional fut re, and fosters innovation and leaders
ip. A¿½the 'la Caixa' Foundation, we work every day with the aim of building a better society for everyone, and to achieve this, we need to stay very attentive to the new needs and challenges presented by the present and the future. This is the raison d'etre of the doctoral and postdoctoral scholarships, which reaffirm our commitment to education and excellence in research to build a better and healthier world based on knowledge," explained the Deputy General Director of the 'la Caixa' Foundation, Elisa Duran, during the award ceremony on March 12th at the CosmoCaixa Science Museum.
The i¿½la Caixai¿½ Foundation fellowships program is the most important of those prom ted by private institutions in Spain and Europe, both in terms of the number of fellows ips offered and the variety of disciplines covered. In all, the Foundation will allocate close t 21 million euros to this intake of doctoral and postdoctoral fellows. Both programs have een jointly financed by the European Commission through the Marie Sk?odowska-Curie CO UND Action, in the context of the Horizon 2020 Framework Program.