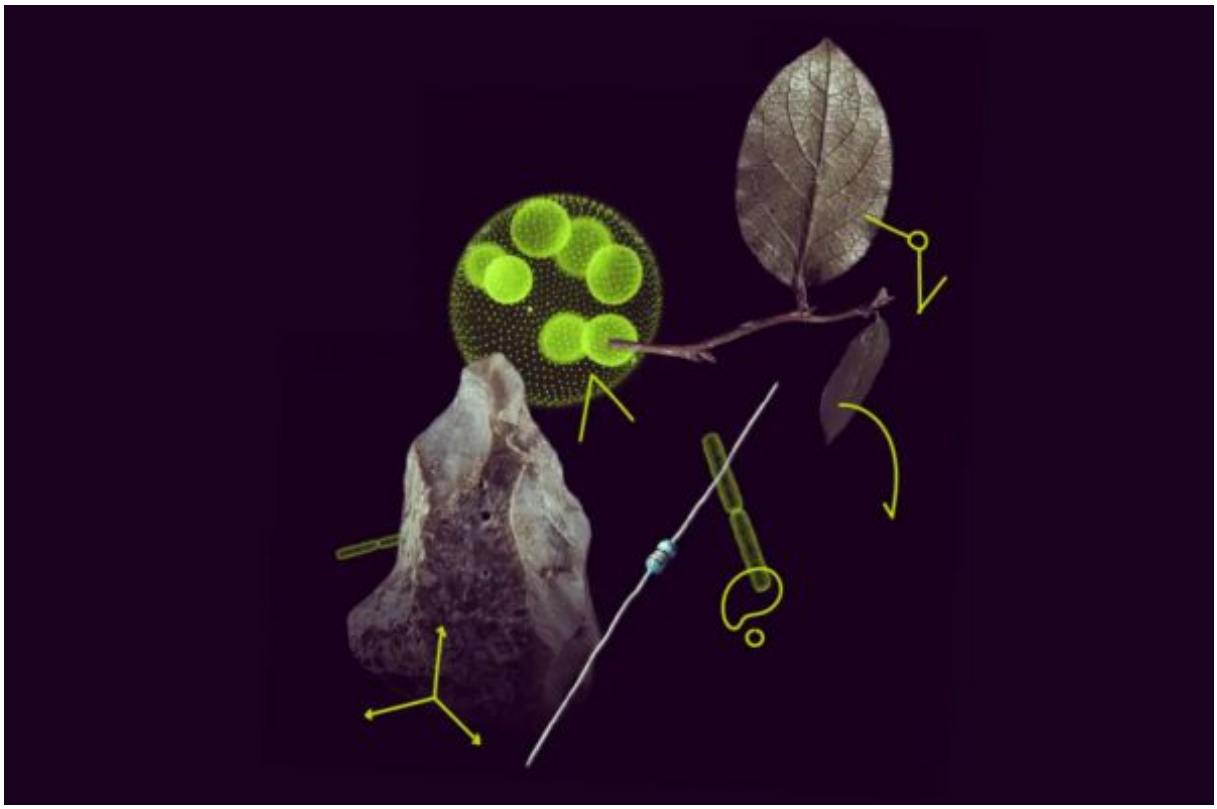


# Seven new Marie Sk?odowska-Curie postdoctoral fellows

## Seven candidates applying from ICFO have been awarded the MSCA fellowships, giving the institute a 39% success rate, well above the 16% global average.

April 04, 2025

The MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships, part of Horizon Europe, support outstanding researc and innovation collaborations across all areas of knowledge. The 2024 call received a**record number of 10,360 submissions,** from which **only 1,696 have been selected**, highlighting the highly competitive nature of the program and the excellence of the awarded proposals.

**Innovative research for a sustainable future**

One example of such excellence is **Rashmi Runjhun**, who achieved a perfect score of 100% and will join the Organic Nanostructured Photovoltaics group. i¿½I feel privileged in achieving this score and such a successful evaluation!i¿½, she comments. Her proposal ai s at reducing carbon emissions and combating the climate emergency by developing a compact photovoltaic-electrochemical cell for green hydrogen production. i¿₩e expect to

develop an efficient green technology for solar energy conversion and storage, as renewable energy sources provide excellent ways to meet the energy requirements,i¿½ she explains. i¿½ I hope that I will be able to successfully achieve my goals and contribute to the success of my group as well as ICFO.i¿½

Researchers **Sumaiya Parveen** and **Kaiqi Zhao** will also contribute to the green transition by joining the CO2 Mitigation Accelerated by Photons group. i¿½I aim to contribute to Europe's Green Deal goals by developing sustainable, high-performance materials for low-energy computation,i¿½ says Sumaiya. Her colleague Kaiqi will develop a multi-module sma t electrosynthesis system to efficiently convert gases such as C⍰ and propylene into valuabl chemicals. i¿½I was inspired to apply for the fellowship because of its strong support for ambitious and interdisciplinary research, with real-world impact,i¿½ he comments, i¿½b t also for the opportunity to work under the supervision of Prof. Pelayo Garcia de Arqueri¿½. Sumaiya adds, i¿½I also look forward to engaging in ICFO's outreach initiatives and gaining valuable experience.i¿

**New talent across disciplines**

i¿½As a cell biologist, ICFO didn't initially come to mind,i¿½ says **Eugenia Almacellas**, incoming postdoc to the Single Molecule Biophotonics group. i¿½However, I've been familiar with Dr. Felix Campelo's work for some time and I truly admire him, so I reached out and we made it happen! I consider joining ICFO a great opportunity to interact with scientists from different backgrounds, and I believe this will have a significant impact on my way of reasoning,i¿½ she explains

Postdoc researchers **Kaiwen Wang** and **Hadrien Vignaut** were also awarded the fellowships for the Nanophotonics Theory and the Quantum NanoElectronics and NanoMechanics research groups, respectively.

**Antariksha Das** will join the Quantum Photonics with Solids and Atoms. Antariksha will develop an efficient, cavity-enhanced quantum memory, optimized for high-rate and long-distance entanglement distribution at a metropolitan scale. Achieving this milestone is crucial towards deploying a robust, application-ready quantum network and laying the foundation for a future European quantum internet. i¿½I chose ICFO for its state-of-the-art facilities, advanced experimental labs, and a collaborative and supportive work culture,i¿½ he explains. i¿½ICFO's strong focus on quantum technologies makes it the perfect environme t for my projecti¿½ he conclude