



<b>Position</b>	15 Early Stage Researcher PhD Studentships
<b>Project</b>	ORBITAL (MSCA-European Training Network)
<b>Project Lead</b>	Dr Laurence Fitzhenry (Waterford Institute of Technology)
<b>Salary Scale</b>	The MSCA programme offers a highly competitive and attractive set of allowances and working conditions. The successful candidates will receive allowances in accordance with the MSCA regulations for early stage researchers. [Exact allowance details will be confirmed upon appointment (Living Allowance = €3270/month - correction factor to be applied per country + mobility allowance = €600/month. Researchers may also qualify for a family allowance (approx. €250/month) depending on family situation)] <b>Note the living allowance amounts are a gross EU contribution to the salary costs of the researcher. The net salary results from deducting all compulsory (employer/employee) social security contributions, as well as direct taxes (e.g. income tax), etc.</b>
<b>Location</b>	Hosted by one of 11 project partners; Waterford Institute of Technology (Ireland) – project coordinator; Universidade de Santiago de Compostela (Spain); The Queen’s University Belfast (Northern Ireland); Instituto Superior Técnico (Portugal); University of Iceland (Iceland); University of Birmingham (England); Universidad Complutense Madrid (Spain); Experimentica (Finland); Nanovector (Italy); University College Dublin (Ireland); Ocupharm Diagnostics (Spain) – further details and individual project descriptions at <a href="http://www.orbital-itn.eu">www.orbital-itn.eu</a>  It is planned that each ESR will undergo a series of secondments to consortium member sites, totalling 25% of the 36-month duration. Each secondment will be for a maximum period of 3 months at any one time.
<b>Duration</b>	The successful candidates will receive <b>fixed term full-time employment contracts for 36 months</b> , as per the MSCA-ITN provisions. In all cases, successful candidates will be enrolled on a PhD course which in some instances, could be 48 months or above in duration. ESRs can apply for further external funding for any period of time greater than the 36-month contract but will be required to self-fund after this 36-month contract of employment. For further information please contact <a href="mailto:orbital@wit.ie">orbital@wit.ie</a>
Applications are invited for 15 Early Stage Researcher (ESR) PhD studentships on the Marie Skłodowska-Curie action (MSCA) European/Innovative Training Network, ORBITAL (Ocular Research By Integrated Training And Learning) within the Horizon 2020 Programme of the European	

Commission. Each vacancy is for a period of 36 months, with a starting date of 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 – see detailed project descriptions at [www.orbital-itn.eu](http://www.orbital-itn.eu). Recruitment will be on a competitive basis across all projects.

### **The Project**

Diseases of the posterior segment of the eye are rapidly increasing. A particular example of this is Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD), which is a leading cause of blindness in the elderly. By 2040, the number of Europeans suffering from early and late stage AMD will have increased to over 26 million. In light of these figures, there is a lack of researchers with the necessary interdisciplinary skills to combat such increasing burdens. The ORBITAL ETN programme has the primary objective of recruiting brilliant early stage researchers (ESRs) and developing the next generation of research leaders and drivers. With a uniquely qualified, and outstanding collaborative network of European and global experts, from academic, clinical and industrial sectors, ORBITAL ESRs will be exposed to an integrated and complementary network of expertise. ORBITAL will target the growing challenge of posterior segment diseases (PSD) of the eye, such as AMD and diabetic retinopathy, by way of an intersectoral consortium with extensive experience in generating innovative technologies and training new researchers. ESRs will be exposed to a broad scientific landscape across a range of varied and complementary disciplines, all under the overarching discipline of ocular drug delivery. Engagement with patients, patient groups and clinicians, throughout the entirety of the training programme will ensure that patient-oriented solutions are at the centre of all research activity.

**ELIGIBILITY - APPLICATIONS WILL ONLY BE CONSIDERED FOLLOWING AN ELIGIBILITY CHECK (also see individual project descriptions for individual project eligibility and host institute requirements).**

- Researchers are required to undertake trans-national mobility (i.e. move from one country to another) when taking up the appointment. Applicants cannot apply for an ESR position hosted in a country where they have resided, worked or studied for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the start of recruitment.
- Applicants should be in the first four years (full-time equivalent) of their research careers and not yet have been awarded a doctorate. This 4-year period is measured from the date of obtaining the degree which would formally entitle them to embark on a doctorate.
- The successful candidate must meet host institute requirements for entry to a doctoral programme.

- Any applicant whose first language is other than English must have certified English language proficiency of at least IELTS 6.5 or equivalent or as specified on the relevant project webpage description.
- Requirements for the ideal candidate for each of the 15 positions is detailed on each individual project tab at [www.orbital-itn.eu](http://www.orbital-itn.eu)
- For all applicants, please also note that host organisations may decide to interview only those applicants who appear from the information available, to be the **most suitable**, in terms of experience, qualifications and other requirements of the position

### **Application process**

Applications will **only be accepted using the official application form**, which can be obtained at [www.orbital-itn.eu](http://www.orbital-itn.eu). The application form, together with an official copy of degree(s) (if applicable, an official English translation), course transcripts (if applicable, an official English translation), and any English proficiency test result required, must be sent as pdfs in a single email to [orbital@wit.ie](mailto:orbital@wit.ie).

Eligible applications will be acknowledged and forwarded to the relevant supervisors in charge of each project. They will shortlist applicants and conduct interviews for the relevant projects. Shortlisted applicants will be informed of the outcome within ca. three weeks following interview (timelines may vary a little between partners). Successful applicants will need to prove that they are eligible in respect of the ESR definition, mobility criteria, any English language proficiency, and any project specific requirements. In the application form, applicants may include up to four choices of PhD project from ESR PhD Projects 1 to 15 in order of preference: see project descriptions and project number on the individual PhD links at [www.orbital-itn.eu](http://www.orbital-itn.eu) . **NOTE: contact names are given for further information on each individual project on the relevant PhD Project webpage.**

The initial deadline for applications is **17.00 CET, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019**. Positions which have been filled following the initial call will be removed from the open list on the project website. However, note that the call may be reopened as a rolling call for any positions not filled.

**Recruitment will be a transparent and merit-based process in accordance with the 40 principles of the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for Recruitment of Researchers.**

