Nicolaus Copernicus University (NCU), Toruń, Poland has an open position for an **Early Stage Researcher (ESR)** to pursue a PhD degree, funded for a period of **36 months**.

The project entitled **Advanced BiomEdical OPTICAL Imaging and Data Analysis (BE OPTICAL)** provides a unique and structured training programme to 14 ESRs in a wide range of optical imaging technologies and signal processing tools, including fluorescence spectroscopy and microscopy, optical coherence tomography, optogenetics, engineered nanomaterials and signal processing tools.

Comprising 7 leading academic groups and 2 non-academic partners in 5 European countries, the project **BE OPTICAL** brings together an interdisciplinary team of physicists, engineers and medical doctors, with complementary expertise in optical imaging, nanotechnology, computer science, complex systems and data analysis. The non-academic partners are a leading company in fluorescence instrumentation and an internationally recognised ophthalmology clinic, with the most advanced technology and expertise in ocular diseases.

The training programme will provide the ESRs with a broad understanding of how a wide range of optical imaging technologies and data processing tools work, and will open for them a wide range of job opportunities. The ESRs will apply this knowledge to advance the early diagnosis of highly significant diseases. The ESRs will also gain insight into clinical studies of novel imaging technologies and the commercialization process, which will further improve their employability.

**Place of Work**

The Early Stage Researcher will be registered as a PhD student and employed at Nicolaus Copernicus University (http://www.umk.pl/en/) with full employee benefits. The ESR will join Optical Biomedical Imaging Group at Institute of Physics NCU (http://obig.fizyka.umk.pl) and will be supervised by prof. dr hab. Maciej Wojtkowski and dr. Ireneusz Grulkowski. He/she will work closely with other BE-OPTICAL researchers at Universitat Politecnica De Catalunya (Spain) and Ocular Microsurgery Institute (Spain) with secondment visits to these partners.

The ESR hosted by NCU will develop novel ophthalmic instruments by combing multimodal scanning laser **ophthalmoscopy (SLO)** and **OCT**. A numerical tool based on Fourier optics will be developed for the analysis of PSF modification due to the controlled inserting of aberrations. Then, an experimental set-up will be constructed to validate the approach. New instrumentation will include: active optical components (e.g. acousto-optic / electro-optic tunable lens or spatial light modulator) and lateral scanning of the eye. A lab prototype of the integrated SLO-OCT device with non-diffracting probing beam will be constructed. Finally, the new instrument will be demonstrated by in vivo imaging of the eye.

**Requirements**

The applicant is required to satisfy the eligibility criteria for ITN-ETN - Training Networks Early Stage Researchers, i.e.:  
- must be within the first four years (full-time equivalent) of their research career and not have a doctoral degree;  
- must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Poland for more than 12 months in the three years immediately prior to the recruitment.

The applicant will also be expected to have a MSc (or equivalent) undergraduate degree in physics, optics, electrical engineering or a related discipline.

Applications should include: 1) a CV (publication record is advantageous), 2) scanned copy of Master’s degree certificate (or equivalent), 3) a statement of the candidate’s research interests, experience and skills, and 4) contact information for at least two references. All materials should be submitted via email to:

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