

PhD position (Doctoral Candidate 12) in 'Frontier Research Competences for Neuro-modulation and Oscillations in Pain'

Apply for EU funded support to undertake cutting edge research within a high-level European Training Network consortium of seven research intensive institutions and universities. You will benefit from a team approach, integrated international mobility, high level subject and transferable skills development oriented to your future employment in research and the wider economy. Frontier Research Competences for Neuro-modulation and Oscillations in Pain (FRESCO4NoPain) is an EU-funded Doctoral Network (DN) under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) - (Grant number 101167856 - HORIZON-MSCA-2023-DN-01). More information about the project can be found on www.fresco4nopain.com. FRESCO4NoPain offers 17 Doctoral Candidates positions to begin on 1st of September 2025 or soon before and a [list of all available position can be found here](#). Please consult the '[Guide for Applicants](#)' document for further details.

This specific PhD/DC position is for Individual Research Project (IRP) 12: '*Prediction of response to analgesic rTMS by pre-treatment clinical and cortical oscillatory patterns in people with fibromyalgia*'. The objective will be to identify potential responders to rTMS of the motor cortex using newer stimulation paradigms, based on clinical characteristics of the patients, and on cortical pathological oscillatory patterns assessed before treatment starts. Oscillatory patterns associated with clinical predictors may also be combined into a predictive algorithm to predict specifically the response to rTMS of the motor cortex in fibromyalgia. This study will soon be submitted to Ethical committee and should start in september 2025.

Supervisory team: Main supervisor Prof. Nadine Attal, Ambroise Pare Hospital, National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM), France. Co-supervisor: Prof. Rohini Kuner, Department of Molecular Pharmacology, Heidelberg University Hospital (UKHD), Germany. Mentor: President Deirdre Ryan, Pain Alliance Europe, Belgium (PAE).

Workplace: The primary workplace will be at Ambroise Pare Hospital, National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM), France. Two secondments are planned for Department of Molecular Pharmacology, Heidelberg University Hospital (UKHD), Germany and Pain Alliance Europe, Belgium (PAE).

Candidate eligibility

The DC position is open for highly motivated candidates holding a master's degree. Applicants should not be in possession of a doctoral degree at the time of the call deadline. Furthermore, applicants must not have resided or carried out your main activity (e.g. work, studies) in the country where you have been recruited, for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the recruitment date. Applicants must demonstrate that their ability to understand and express themselves in both written and spoken English is sufficiently high for them to derive the full benefit from the network training.

Application deadline

7th of April 2025.

How to apply

The application is only to be submitted online. Please send your application to the FRESCO4NoPain project management at fresco4nopain@hst.aau.dk, and be aware, that your application must include the following:

- Motivation letter (max. 2 pages) including the following:
 - Brief presentation of the DC
 - The main reasons for choice of DC project
 - General knowledge on the research topic
 - Main research and training goals
 - Future plans
 - Complimentary skills
- Curriculum Vitae:
 - A CV (e.g. using the EU model) which states your educational background, experience, techniques, language skills and other skills or experiences relevant for this position. In accordance with mobility rules, it is crucial to provide detailed information about your employment and academic history, including residence details for at least the past three years.
- Certificate of academic degree:
 - A copy of the original master's degree with full transcripts. In case the master's degree has not been obtained at the call closing date applicants

must upload their BSc degree/diploma in English and upload the transcript of the exams sustained so far during their master course, with a clear indication of the conclusion of the studies.

- Recommendation letter:
 - Attesting to the academic standing and potential of the applicant. Must be from an academic supervisor or collaborator, line manager, and/or company CEO. Must contain referees' contact details (will only be contacted upon prior agreement) and name of applicant.

Selection process

The Selection Committee will oversee and manage the entire selection process to ensure fairness, transparency, and compliance with the established criteria and MSCA guidelines. This committee is responsible for reviewing applications, shortlisting candidates, and conducting interviews. The Selection Committee will consist of the supervisory team.

By 5th of May 2025, the candidates will be shortlisted based on their applications. The evaluation criteria for shortlisting applications can be found in the '[Guide for Applicants](#)'. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an online interview which will take place in the period 5th of May to 2nd of June 2025. Please refer to the '[Guide for Applicants](#)' for details on the process and evaluation criteria for the interview.

About the workplace

The activities of the Pathophysiology and Clinical Pharmacology of Pain laboratory are exclusively devoted to clinical research and include studies in patients with various types of acute or chronic pain syndromes and in healthy volunteers. Comprising a multidisciplinary medical team, including neurologists, anesthesiologists, rheumatologists and gastroenterologists, our unit boasts researchers, full time professors, and hospital doctors. Since 2001, our team has been headquartered at Ambroise Paré Hospital within the Pain Center, recognized as a center of excellence in the hospital. This locally and regionally successful development has significantly eased patient recruitment, with over 6000 consultations annually. Our research programs leverage this success and benefit from an extensive network of collaborations established at local, national, and international levels in recent years.

Terms of employment and salary

Doctoral candidates are employed under a fixed-term contract and will be working fulltime on the project. FRESCO4NoPain offers competitive salaries including a living allowance, a mobility allowance and when applicable a family allowance (rates are adjusted using the country correction coefficient).

DC will receive a competitive salary and additional resources to support wider networking and academic development including opportunities to take part in international conferences and collaborations. Pay is standardised by the EU, is ample by local standards, and allows for comfortable living. All researchers will be recruited under an employment contract that includes social security coverage. The salary includes a living allowance, a mobility allowance and a family allowance (if applicable). The guaranteed PhD funding is for 36 months.

Contact

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