May 11 – 15, 2020
Venice International University
Isola di San Servolo, Venice
Light: Its Nature and Its Use

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Scientific coordinators:

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University of Bordeaux (France)

This program is a VIU Global Challenges Initiative

Light: its nature, its use, its production, its detection, its modes of interaction with matter, its effects on the environment have always been the focus of attention in various fields ranging from Art and Architecture to Physics, Biology and Health sciences. The study of light gave birth to modern physics and generated technological revolutions in the 20th Century. Based on the photon concept introduced by Albert Einstein in 1905, the invention of the laser in 1960 paved the way for new research domains in optics and photonics with the consequence that the properties of light can now be manipulated on a much wider scale. Since that date, more Nobel Prizes in Physics and Chemistry have been awarded in light-related topics than any other fields.

Light Related Technologies have a fundamental capacity to transform processes and products as well as the potential to lead to breakthrough innovations in many different application areas ranging from manufacturing, ICT, lighting & energy to healthcare, security and environmental protection. The 21st Century is frequently termed the "century of light". Light sciences and technologies drive research in physics, chemistry, biology and engineering. It is often said that, “if technology in the 20th century was led by the discovery of the electron and the development of electronics, then the 21st century will be led by technologies relying on photons and the development of photonics”.

This PhD Academy aims at giving a broad overview of modern optics and its applications (i.e. photonics) in various fields, involving the exploration of matter, the design of original devices involving light (e.g. imaging and medical set-ups, optical communications) and their applications in analytical sciences (microscopy, spectroscopies), healthcare, manufacture, arts.

The program will concentrate on the transversality of the issues addressed and emphasizes how the various perspectives to use light have enhanced creativity and innovation of the design of new devices based on light-matter interaction and have contributed to a better understanding of the physical phenomena underlying these effects.
This PhD Academy is led by:
- University of Bordeaux, France
- Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, Canada
- Ludwig Maximilians Universität, Germany

Faculty
Laurent Servant, University of Bordeaux
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Brahim Lounis, University of Bordeaux
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Stefan Maier, Ludwig Maximilians Universität
Paolo Prosposito, Tor Vergata University of Rome
Maarten Roeffaers, KU Leuven
Alessandro Farini, National Research Council of Italy
Fabio Peron, Iuav University of Venice

Topics
- History of light and light imaging
- Light and healthcare
- Extreme light: low and high energy light
- Technology of light: nano-photonics and photonics devices
- Art and light
- Role of light in augmented reality
- Light in urban planning
- Security and environmental protection

The program also includes a parallel program of training in a range of Transversal Skills for developing participants’ academic careers and poster sessions to present their research projects.

Level of students and suitable fields of study
This PhD Academy is offered to PhD students, post-docs and young researchers with background in sciences, physics, chemistry, biology, health sciences, art and architecture, archeology.

Open to candidates from all the VIU Member Institutions.
Applications from excellent candidates from non-member institutions will be also considered.

Fees & Grant Support
Students from the VIU member universities will pay no participation fees. Grant support is also available to support, partially or fully, the costs of international travel and accommodation.

The participation fee for students of non-member universities is Euro 1,100,00 VAT incl. The fee is inclusive of tuition, course materials, accommodation, lunches, social events and taxes). Students from non-member institutions are not eligible for VIU grant support.
VIU Alumni are eligible for a reduced fee.

The final program will be available on the VIU website

Applications
December 1, 2019 – January 25, 2020
via the VIU website.

Applicants must submit the (1) application form, (2) a letter of motivation – which should include a short bio and a brief description of the candidate’s research project, (3) a curriculum vitae and (4) a photo.

Selected participants will be asked to present a poster.
VIU International PhD Academies
Venice International University is a consortium of 19 universities, representing 14 countries throughout the world. The mission of VIU is to foster cooperation among VIU member institutions while facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas, by developing, promoting and organizing joint academic, research and training/capacity-building program. Students from non-member universities may participate in selected academic programs. The academic programs at VIU are distinguished by a markedly interdisciplinary approach to the topics, and by the international perspectives that the participants contribute to the discussions. The VIU campus is on the island of San Servolo in Venice, Italy.

Venice International University holds two International PhD Academies each year. They are intensive training opportunities open to PhD candidates from the member universities of VIU.

A PhD is the highest diploma awarded by universities in the world, and PhDs are naturally expected to take on major responsibilities in their professional life. Apart from the disciplinary scientific skills acquired during doctoral study and research, it is the ability to respond to the requirements of creativity, innovation and project management, that produce the significant added value of a doctoral degree.

Whether they will work within or outside academia, PhDs must be able to develop a forward-looking vision of the challenges they have to face. The interdisciplinary approach of all VIU activities is adopted also in the PhD Academy, where the participants have the opportunity to meet their peers from all over the world, and to tackle transversal topics.

www.univiu.org/study/phd-academy