

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

ALL DOCTORAL CANDIDATES NOW RECRUITED!

After an extensive recruitment process, involving three Calls for Applicants, a total of 336 applications, and 52 interviews, we are pleased to announce that all 12 PROTEMIC Doctoral Candidate positions have now been filled. The selected candidates (7 male, 5 female) represent diverse nationalities, coming from 10 different countries, and bring with them strong academic backgrounds in physics, photonics, chemistry and related disciplines. We warmly welcome them all to the PROTEMIC network, and look forward to a vibrant and stimulating research programme! Below, we introduce each candidate, with a short bio.

DC1

SOFYANE STITOU

Sofyane holds two MSc degrees: one in Advanced Materials and Renewable Energies from Meknes, Morocco, and another in Photonics and Communication Systems from the University of Montpellier, France. He has done experimental work on VECSEL-based THz emitters, and ultrafast spectroscopy using a femtosecond laser to study dye-sensitized solar cells.

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DC2

ZOFIA BEJM

Zofia completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Physics at ETH Zurich, Switzerland. Her academic training focused on optics, ultrafast laser physics, and spectroscopy. After graduating, she joined the R&D department at Sensirion AG, where she contributed to the development of a carbon-dioxide gas sensor.

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DC3

HIRRA SATTAR

Hirra completed an M.Sc. in Analytical Chemistry at the University of Agriculture (UAF) Pakistan, where she used vibrational spectroscopy and chemometrics for biochemical characterisation of bacterial strains. She enjoys working with people from different fields and learning how science developed in the lab finds its way into industry as a working solution.

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DC4

YAËL WEBER BREDEL

Yaël is 24 years old and from France. He got his BSc in Electronics & Optics in 2023 from the University of Limoges (France) and an MSc in High Frequency Electronics & Photonics in 2025 from the same university, with a major in photonics. During his studies, he conducted internships and research projects focusing on photonics devices for biomedical applications.

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DC5

ELYAS NASIMDOUST

Elyas holds a BSc in Physics from the University of Guilan, Iran, and an MSc in Optics and Lasers from the Institute for Advanced Studies in Basic Sciences, Zanjan, Iran. His PhD research focuses on the development of infrared spectroscopic techniques for biomedical applications, with particular emphasis on ATR-FTIR and photothermal spectroscopy.

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DC6

NADEZHDA NIKIFOROVA

Nadezhda holds an MSc in Chemistry from Saint Petersburg State University. Her research investigates the physicochemical properties and bioactive lipid cargo of human milk extracellular vesicles using AFM-IR imaging and mass spectrometry to support strategies preventing necrotizing enterocolitis in preterm infants.

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DC7

MARIE TRIEBKORN

Marie holds a BEng in Physical Engineering from TH Wildau, Germany, and an MEng in Laser and Optotechnologies from Ernst-Abbe-Hochschule Jena, Germany. In her current work, she focuses on optical packaging of photonic integrated circuits and 3D printing of micro-optics for advanced photonic applications.

DC8

AHMED SALAMA

Ahmed received his bachelor's degree in Nanotechnology with photonics specialization from UST at Zewail City (Egypt), and his master's degree in photonics for security and safety from UEF (Finland) and JMU (France). His current work focuses on building special lasers for protein structural analysis and incorporating them into integrated photothermal spectroscopy.



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DC9

ASHUTOSH PRATAP SINGH

Ashutosh, from India, completed his M.Sc. at Banaras Hindu University, where his research focused on the analysis of coupled quantum systems. His research interests span quantum information, photonics, spectroscopy, and advanced optical technologies for biomedical and analytical applications.

DC10

GABRIEL MARINO DE OLIVEIRA

Gabriel is originally from Maringá, Brazil. He holds B.Sc. (2024) and M.Sc. (2025) degrees from the State University of Maringá. He has experience in condensed matter physics, having worked extensively with spectroscopy and spectrometry experiments in free-space optics, as well as the theory of photothermal spectroscopy techniques.



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DC11

PRACHI UPADHYAY

Prachi completed her Bachelor's and master's degrees in Electronics in Ahmedabad, India, studying at St. Xavier's College and the School of Sciences, Ahmedabad. She later earned a second master's degree in Quantum Engineering from Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg, Germany.

DC12

SEBIN BINU

Sebin is from Kerala, India. He holds a Master's degree in Applied Physics and a Bachelor's degree in Physics from CMS College Kottayam. During his master's research at Cochin University of Science and Technology, he worked on Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS), gaining hands-on experience in laser-matter interaction and spectroscopic analysis.



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