



# Integrated Training in Dry Eye Disease Drug Development (IT-DED<sup>3</sup>)

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## IT-DED<sup>3</sup> offers 12 Early Stage Researcher (ESR) positions (PhD students) across Europe

### About IT-DED<sup>3</sup>

The European Network for Integrated Training in Dry Eye Disease Drug Development ([IT-DED<sup>3</sup>](#)) aims to deliver multidisciplinary and entrepreneurial researchers trained to develop new therapies for patients suffering from Dry Eye Diseases (DED). DED is a chronic, multifactorial disease of the ocular surface and is a major and increasing healthcare problem due to its high prevalence and economic burden because of the ageing population and frequent computer/tablet/smartphone usage.

Both the research and training programme of [IT-DED<sup>3</sup>](#) will deliver researchers with an enhanced career perspective and employability, who know how to use their entrepreneurial skills to move drug development projects in DED and other fields to the next technology readiness level.

[IT-DED<sup>3</sup> consortium](#) is composed of 7 beneficiaries and 10 partners from 8 different European countries.

### ESR positions

- **ESR1: Design, Synthesis and Biochemical evaluation of novel serine protease inhibitors**  
Host organisation: [UAMC](#), [University of Antwerp \(UA\)](#), Belgium (36 months)
- **ESR2: Design, Synthesis and Biochemical evaluation of novel RIPK1 inhibitors**  
Host organisation: [UAMC](#), [University of Antwerp \(UA\)](#), Belgium (36 months)
- **ESR3: Implementation of *in vivo* models to identify potential candidates for DED treatment**  
Host organisation: [LMPH](#), [University of Antwerp \(UA\)](#), Belgium (36 months)
- **ESR4: Evaluation of the topic use of natural compounds for the treatment of ocular surface inflammatory diseases**  
Host organisation: [University of Valladolid \(UVA\)](#), Spain (36 months)
- **ESR5: Upscaling of selected compounds from WP1 for formulation studies and *in vivo* evaluation**  
Host organisation: [Latvian Institute of Organic Synthesis \(LIOS\)](#), Latvia (36 months)
- **ESR6: Development of new carriers to improve the bioavailability of topic formulations to treat ocular surface inflammatory diseases**  
Host organisation: [University of Valladolid \(UVA\)](#), Spain (36 months)
- **ESR7: Drug penetration to ocular surface tissues**  
Host organisation: [Ocular drug delivery group](#), [University Eastern Finland \(UEF\)](#), Finland (36 months)
- **ESR8: Development of new biomarkers and imaging techniques for Dry Eye Disease**  
Host organisation: [Université Pierre et Marie Curie \(UPMC\)](#), France (36 months)
- **ESR9: Cytokine and chemokine receptors and relationship to ocular pain**  
Host organisation: [Université Pierre et Marie Curie](#) (UPMC), France (36 months)
- **ESR10: Anti-inflammatory dry eye therapy using a water-free delivery platform**  
Host organisation: [University Hospital of Cologne \(UHC\)](#), Germany (36 months)

▪ **ESR11: Development of novel diagnostic tools for dry-eye disease using optical coherence tomography (OCT)**

Host organisation: [University Hospital of Cologne \(UHC\)](#), Germany (36 months)

▪ **ESR12: Extraction, recovery and regeneration of biopolymers from marine biomass and subsequent evaluation of biopolymers for new carrier formulation**

Host organisation: [The Institute of Experimental Biology and Technology \(iBET\)](#), Portugal (36 months)

## Profile and requirements

- ✓ Applicants can be of any nationality.
- ✓ Applicants must hold a MSc or equivalent in the field of (bio)medical sciences, chemistry, pharmaceutical sciences, physics, computer science, veterinary sciences, biotechnology or equivalents. **Please read carefully the requirements of each vacancy by clicking on the ESR titles in the above section.**
- ✓ Applicants must have an ability to understand and express themselves in both written and spoken English to a level that is sufficiently high for them to derive the full benefit from the network training.
- ✓ Applicants must be eligible to enrol on a PhD programme at the host institution (or at a designated university in case the host institution is a non-academic organisation).
- ✓ Applicants must have the necessary academic skills and background to make the success of a doctoral degree.
- ✓ **H2020 MSCA Mobility Rule:** researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the recruitment date. Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status are not taken into account.
- ✓ **H2020 MSCA eligibility criteria:** Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) must, at the date of recruitment by the host organisation, be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree. Full-Time Equivalent Research Experience is measured from the date when the researcher obtained the degree entitling him/her to embark on a doctorate (either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited, even if a doctorate was never started or envisaged).

## Benefits

- ✓ You will be employed by the host organisation for 36 months.
- ✓ A competitive salary plus allowances. Moreover, funding is available for technical and personal skills training and participation in international research events.
- ✓ You will benefit from the designed training programme offered by the host organisation and the [IT-DED<sup>3</sup> consortium](#).
- ✓ You will participate in international secondments to other organisations within the IT-DED<sup>3</sup> network and in outreach activities targeted at a wide audience.

## Application

Interested candidates are invited to apply for this position by filing in the form on our website ([www.it.ded3.eu](http://www.it.ded3.eu)), via this link: [www.uantwerpen.be/en/projects/dry-eye-disease-drug-development/job-openings/submit-your-applicat/](http://www.uantwerpen.be/en/projects/dry-eye-disease-drug-development/job-openings/submit-your-applicat/)

## Additional information

For additional information about the research project and these ESR positions, please visit our website: <http://www.itded3.eu>