

PSRS AMB meeting

10/03/2022 and 11/03/2022, Torino

Participants :

- Amine Nait-Ali (UPEC)
- Jyrki Saarinen (UEF)
- Carlo Ricciardi (PoliTo)
- Nathalie Destouches (UJM)
- Nolwenn Luquet (UJM)

Invited : Alain Trémeau, Noora Heikkilä

❖ Proposals for improving the selection process next year

Due to an increasing number of applications, the AMB members discussed about the way to improve the efficiency of the selection process. The latter is proposed to evolve as follows:

- The remaining applications will be equally divided among the full partners for a first evaluation and all students with less than 3/5 at the first evaluation will be rejected (Second stage).
- In order to save time when an application file is completely out of profile, a new option will be added to the assessment form to allow discarding a candidate without quantitative evaluation when his/her profile does not match the fundamental requirements of the PSRS programme.
- All applications getting more than 3/5 after the second assessment will be assessed by a second full partner (Third stage).
- All student getting on average more than 3.5/5 after the third assessment will be evaluated by all full partners (Fourth stage).
- The same full partners will be assigned to applications from specific countries. As a maximum of 3 EMJMD scholarships will be delivered to students from a same nationality, only the 10 best students from each country will be selected to compete for an EMJMD at the fourth stage.
- The PSRS programme aims at training experts in photonics with a double skill. The first year requires some prerequisites in optics and photonics and in programming. Students must demonstrate they have already learnt these prerequisites or, if they have only a part of them and their academic level is excellent, they must demonstrate their commitment to learn them on their own (online courses, books) before starting the programme. Being aware of the programme of the first year and having the right prerequisites is fundamental to succeed. The double skill is taught in second year. All students validating the first year will be well prepared to it whatever the concentration track.
- The students themselves should not upload the recommendation letters. The application server should be changed to allow the referees to directly upload their letter. Confidentiality must be checked. Also, the referees should be asked to rate predefined questions.
- The CV of candidates must contain the academic background in details with degrees, university, start and end date for each degree, cgpa, ect. The students are encouraged to use the EUROPASS template.

- The motivation letter will be entered directly on the application server and limited to 3000 characters. The students will be asked to explain why they are interested in photonics, what is their professional project and why the PSRS EMJMD meets their expectations.

❖ **Review of the application evaluations**

- 182 application files received, all assessed by at least 2 full partners
- 50 applicants with averaged grades over 3.3/5 interviewed. These 50 students have also received an evaluation by the four full partners on their application files.
- The final grade is the average of the application file grade (average of the 4 assessments) and the interview grades. The criteria used for scoring are those written on the website.
- These 50 application files were discussed in detail especially when discrepancies were observed between the different grades. Some grades have been changed during the selection meeting for harmonization.
- During the interviews, students were questioned about their knowledge of the first year programme, their skills, in particular photonics and understanding of the objectives of the programme, their ability to meet the requirements.

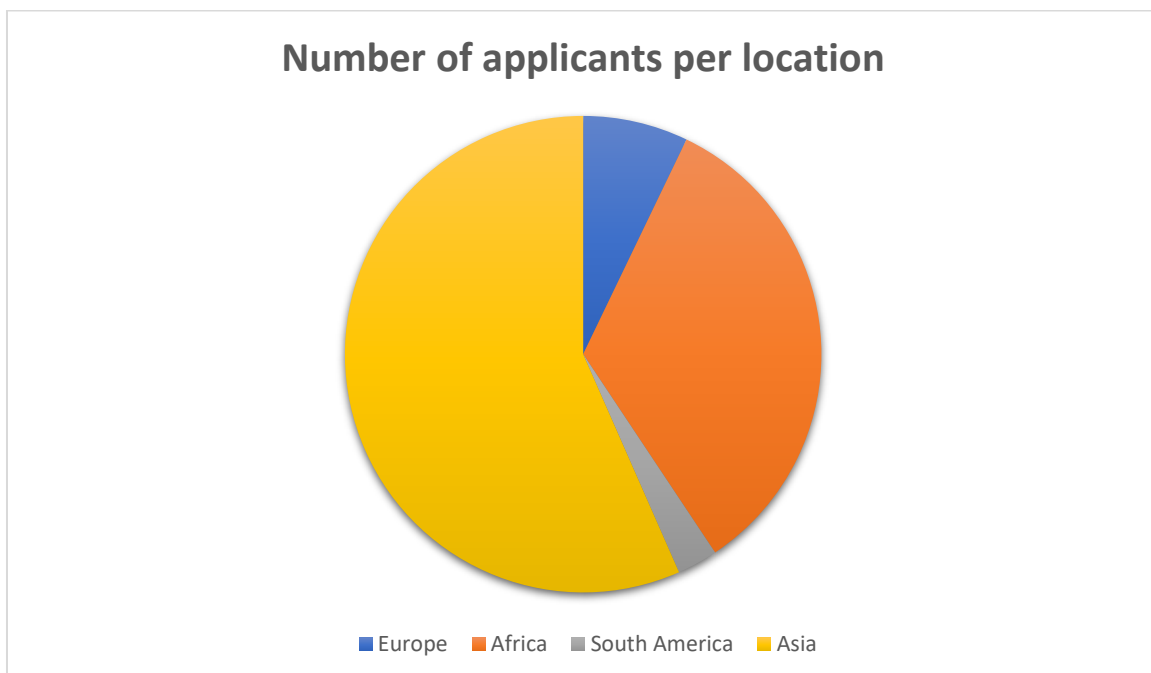
Number of applicants per country :

Europe: Finland : 2, Germany : 2, Norway : 1, Poland : 1, Serbia : 1, Spain : 5, Turkey : 5, Ukraine : 2.

Asia: Azerbaijan : 2, **Bengladesh : 27**, China : 1, India : 20, Indonesia : 1, Iran : 2 ; Iraq : 2, Kazakhstan : 1, Lebanon : 2, Nepal : 2, **Pakistan : 18**, Palestinian Territories : 3, Philippines : 1, Russia : 1, Syria : 1, Vietnam : 1, Jordan : 1, Yemen : 7.

Africa: Algeria : 4, Cameroon : 1, Chad : 1, Djibouti : 1, Egypt : 4, Eritrea : 1, **Ethiopia : 16**, Ghana : 4, Mali : 1, Morocco : 5, **Nigeria : 17**, Rwanda : 3, Sudan : 3 , Tunisia : 3.

America: Bolivia : 2, Jamaica : 1, Mexico : 2, Paraguay : 1.



❖ Students selection

- 5 EMJMD scholarships for programme countries students and 13 EMJMD for partner countries students have been granted leading to select 18 students on the main list. The lowest final grade on the main list is 4.1/5. Among them, 5 women and 13 men. Number of applicants per country on the main list : Spain : 2 students, Serbia : 2, Algeria : 2, Azerbaijan : 2, India : 3, Ukraine : 1, Ethiopia : 1, Bangladesh : 2, Vietnam : 1, Egypt : 2, Nigeria : 1, Russia : 1
- 16 students are on the reserved list. The lowest final grade on the reserve list is 3.5/5. Number of applicants per country on the reserve list : Spain : 2, Finland : 1, India : 6, Bangladesh : 3, China : 2, Pakistan : 1, Lebanon : 1
- 148 students are rejected.

❖ Internships duration

- The AMB decides to allow different durations for the optional internship to take into account the regulations in different countries. It can be from 2 to 4 months. The number ECTS will depend on the length. The other requirements remain unchanged. These ECTS will be added to the transcripts of semester 2.
- The AMB decides to allow different durations for the master thesis internship in M2. It can be from 5-7 months provided that it satisfies the regulations of the country where the student carry out the work. All the defences will be organized the first week of September whatever the length of the internship.

➤ Agenda: book the dates

- **Morning of 21 June, 2022, Teaching staff meeting.** Professors from the full partner institutions will meet to exchange about the PSRS cohort.
- **Afternoon of 21 June 2022, AMB meeting** with the jury of S2 and S3
- **From 29 August to 2 September 2022, Induction week of the third cohort in Saint-Etienne**
- **31 August 2022, Master thesis defence** (first cohort) in Saint-Etienne
 - o 2 juries in parallel for the defence of the master thesis (15 min presentation, 20 min questions, 10 min jury deliberation)
 - o 8:00 Student 1&6, 8:45 Student 2&7, 9:30 Student 3&8, 10:15 Break, 10:45 Student 4&9, 11:30 Student 5&10,
 - o 12:15 Lunch
 - o 14:00 Jury committee and student ranking for the master thesis. M2 students informed about their master thesis grade.
- **31 August 2022, AMB and QAB meetings**
 - o 15:00 AMB Meeting & QAB meeting in parallel
 - o 16:30 Joint QAB and AMB meeting
- **1 September, M1 internship defence** from 8h30am. 1 or 2 juries in parallel depending on the number of internships.
- **1 September, 14:00pm Jury of the master and final ranking of the students**
- **2 September, 2022, 8:30am presentation of the PSRS master to the new (third) cohort**
- **2 September, 2022, 11:00am Graduation ceremony** with diploma supplements signed by the PSRS coordinator, validated during the jury the day before. Official diploma from the various universities will be sent to the students later.

- **Reminder: Application process for 2022-2024**

1. Beginning of October -> Opening of Applications
2. February 6th -> Deadline for Applications
3. February 17th -> Deadline for the first two assessments of applications on the application website
4. February 24th -> Deadline for the assessment of all applications over 3.5/5 by the other two reviewers
5. Notification to all students of their presence or not on the short-list (>3.5)
6. March 10th -> Deadline for interviews with students graded over 3.5/5 after 4 reviews
- 7. March 10th/11th -> Selection Meeting/ AMB and QAB meeting in Torino.**
8. March 22nd -> Notification to short-listed students of their acceptance or not, broadcast of anonymized lists on the programme website
9. March 30st -> Applicants confirm their place
9. April 15th -> Deadline for encoding data on the EMT