MAY 2026

iPSRS NEWSLETTER

INNOVATE - CONNECT - INSPIRE

Université Jean Monnet Saint-Étienne

University of Eastern Finland

Vilnius University

UPEC Université Paris-Est Créteil Val de Marne

Co-funded by the European Union

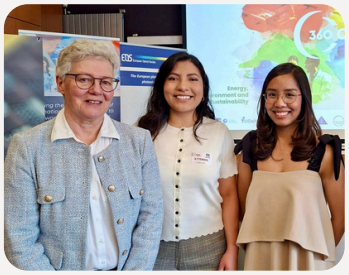
TOP NEWS

Interview with Pierre Chavel

15th Manutech SLEIGHT event

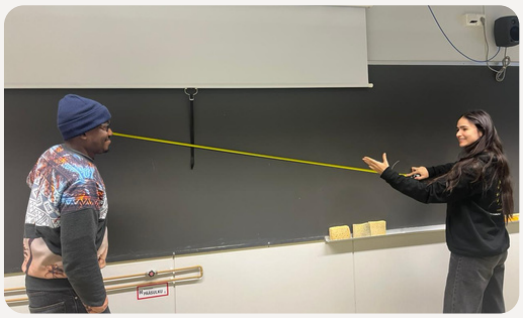
Coordinator of the Educational Committee at Manutech-SLEIGHT Graduate School, a project funded by the French government that unites academic and research institutions in Saint-Étienne and Lyon, like Université Jean Monnet and CNRS. The graduate school focuses on materials, optics, photonics, imaging, computer science, and machine learning.

360 CARLA CAREER SYMPOSIUM



Physics Nobel Prize winner Anne L'Huillier with our iPSRS students Melany Soto and Bianca Garcia.

STUDENT LIFE



2025 INDUSTRIAL WORKSOP

NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNI

Coordinator of the Educational Committee at Manutech-SLEIGHT Graduate School, a project funded by the French government that unites academic and research institutions in Saint-Étienne and Lyon, like Université Jean Monnet and CNRS. The graduate school focuses on materials, optics, photonics, imaging, computer science, and machine learning.

15th Manutech-Sleight Event

The mission and impact of the Manutech-Sleight Events

"At the SLEIGHT Science Events, Scientists from the SLEIGHT member laboratories in Saint-Étienne and Lyon present progress on their joint projects. Additionally, guest lecturers from local, national, and international laboratories present on their key research priorities.

The event involves Master's students through poster sessions, pitch contests, student association activities, and direct interaction with the consortium's ongoing research. Presentations often include previously published research, as the main goal is simply to connect the community and spark collaboration.

Manutech-SLEIGHT measures its success by the excellent students it has attracted over the past eight years, awarding only 8 to 10 scholarships from a large number of applications. This strict selection ensures that students meet a high standard."

By: Melany Soto ('25-'27)

Advice for applicants

"Avoid sending generic, copy-pasted applications with clichés like: I have been interested in this since childhood. Instead, show that you are motivated and that you are already in the direction of a specific subject, as a Master's degree requires deep specialization."

Advice for students

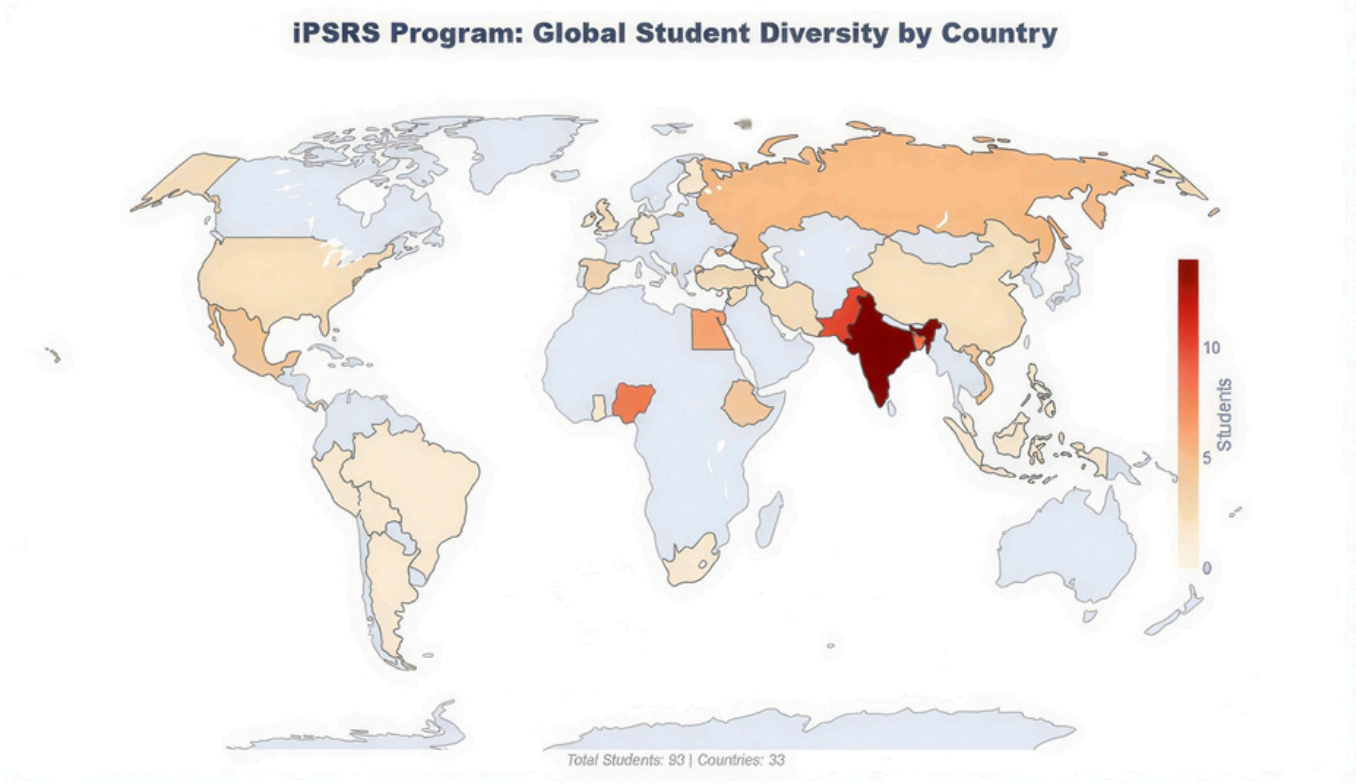
"Work closely with an advisor and discuss your ideas with him to access collaborative research opportunities, such as connecting with laboratories.

Physics experiments in the lab are essential, as AI cannot replace them or fully automate the testing process. However, scientists must stay up to date to discover what unique problems AI can solve. Furthermore, while AI offers helpful suggestions, the researcher sets the priorities, evaluates the information, and remains in control of the decisions."

iPSRS is a melting pot of cultures and backgrounds, with scholarships that reflect the hard work and dedication required of iPSRS students. Let's take a look at the diversity: Leading nations like India (14 students), Pakistan (10) and Bangladesh/Nigeria (8 each) are the most represented nationalities, and stories from students like Maryam (cohort 2025-27) remind us that the challenges that come with adjusting to a new life abroad, are often rewarded with huge personal and professional growth: when Maryam first came to France, she recalled "it was like coming to a new world". But over time, this unfamiliarity turned into an informative journey, teaching her how to adjust and adapt.

Students from different nationalities bring habits and expectations shaped from where they grew up. For example, Ngoc Minh (cohort 2025-27) from Vietnam, found he was used to a fast-paced way of solving problems that placed efficiency first. But here, at iPSRS, he realised his classmates looked at it from a different perspective: beginning with ethics, or long-term social impact, making him rethink what the 'best solution' really was.

Life here at iPSRS is not all about intensive work and no play. Maryam became close friends with students from Nigeria, sharing a love for food and learning about Zobo drinks and puff puffs. Even though moments like homesickness and time-zone differences can be hard, it was another opportunity to bond: through shared meals, laughter, and teamwork, students learn to grow into future professionals who know that empathy and adaptability are just as important as technical academic knowledge.



By: Ngoc Minh and Alex Bramwell ('25-'27)

360 CARLA Career Symposium - Grenoble, France

This March, the Institut NÉEL in Grenoble hosted the two-day 360 CARLA Career Symposium and Training, gathering early-career researchers and leading professionals to explore the expanding global landscape of photonics. Taking a brief pause from the winter campus in Joensuu to travel down to the French Alps provided an incredible opportunity to represent the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's in iPSRS community and connect our academic studies with real-world technological challenges.

A central highlight of the event was having the privilege to moderate the roundtable discussion, "Building a career in photonics: feedback from industry professionals." Sharing the stage with a distinguished panel, including Frederic Boeuf (STMicroelectronics), Ludovic Laurent (mirSense), Quentin Berthome (Teem Photonics), Davit Hakobyan (MERCK), and Laurent Rubaldo (LYNRED). We navigated the realities of transitioning from academic research into the industry sector.

We explored the importance of effective people management and resource-management in fast-paced environments. The panelists also emphasized the necessity of risk management when bringing new innovations to market, and above all, the value of remaining curious to drive continuous problem-solving.

Beyond the technical sessions, we were able to share an all-women lunch with 2023 Nobel Prize Winner in Physics Anne L'Huillier. Events like 360 CARLA definitely provided valuable insights from both industries and Nobel Prize Winner that will help us in our careers.

By: Bianca Garcia ('25-'27)

Moderating Roundtable with Industry Professionals in Photonics

Meeting 2023 Nobel Prize Winner in Physics Anne L'Huillier

Event Satisfaction Survey

The feedback from students who attended the 2025 iPSRS Industrial Workshop indicates that overall satisfaction was high. Most students appreciated the variety of topics and found the industrial presentations both interesting and useful. The networking sessions were particularly valued, as they provided opportunities to connect with companies and explore potential internships.

"The industrial speakers' advice will help me to build my career"

Melany Soto

Many students also appreciated the visits to research facilities and the emphasis on real-world photonics applications. Some students suggested that the alumni session and round table discussions could be further improved to enhance their usefulness. Overall, the workshop was considered a valuable experience that effectively links academic studies with industry, while still presenting opportunities for further improvement.

By: Maryam Forouhari ('25-'27)

AI in Optical and Photonic Technologies

Artificial intelligence is becoming an important tool for companies working in photonics and related industries. It helps improve the analysis of complex optical data that is often difficult to interpret using traditional methods. Many industrial applications, such as semiconductor inspection, laser processing, and optical sensing, benefit from AI by making tasks like defect detection, material classification, and parameter estimation more efficient and reliable. As a result, companies are increasingly adopting AI to support their technological development and improve performance.

In general, AI is used alongside existing optical models rather than replacing them. It supports tasks such as reconstruction, prediction, and classification, especially in situations where classical approaches are limited. The workshop examples showed how AI can help improve accuracy and reduce processing time in real industrial applications. Overall, the integration of AI into photonics is seen as a valuable development that strengthens the connection between theory and industrial practice, while continuing to evolve with further advancements.

By: Natenaile Asmamaw Shiferaw ('25-'27)

Round Table Sessions: Exploring Photonics Careers, Innovation, and Market Opportunities

The round table sessions of the iPSRS Industrial Workshop focused on two main topics: “Innovation, Industry Needs & Career Readiness in Photonics” and “From Lab to Market.” These sessions were designed to create direct interaction between students and professionals from academia and industry. The general goal was to provide practical insights into career development, highlight current industry expectations, and help students understand how photonics knowledge can be applied beyond academic studies.

The first round table, “Innovation, Industry Needs & Career Readiness in Photonics”, focused on the skills and competencies required in the professional world. Speakers discussed what companies expect from graduates, including both technical knowledge and soft skills such as communication, adaptability, and teamwork. Students learned about different career paths, the importance of gaining practical experience, and how to better prepare themselves for entering the job market. This session helped students reflect on their current skills and identify areas for improvement.

The second round table, “From Lab to Market”, focused on the process of transforming research into real-world applications. Speakers shared their experiences with innovation, startups, and industrial projects, explaining the steps needed to bring a scientific idea to the market. Students learned about the challenges of commercialization, such as funding, product development, and market needs. This session gave them a clearer understanding of how academic research can lead to practical and impactful technologies.

By: Maryam Forouhari (‘25-’27)

Round Table Session 1

Speakers: Roswitha Giedl-Wagner, Alice Vermeulin, Johan Boullet, Davit Hakobyan, Marwan Abdou Ahmed

Moderator: Bianca Garcia and Melany Soto

Round Table Session 2

Speakers: Ludovic Escoubas and Clara Spetebroodt

Moderator: Maryam Forouhari and Bilal Anayat

Dr. Marwan Abdou Ahmed

Dr. Marwan has contributed to the evolution of modern high-power thin-disk lasers. His work includes better heat management and optical pumping schemes that allow thin-disk lasers to operate at high average power, making thin-disk systems a feasible platform for industrial material processing and scientific applications that need ultrafast, high-energy pulse lasers.

Prominent aspects of his studies include beam shaping, polarization management, and frequency conversion in solid-state lasers. He assisted in the creation of radially and azimuthally polarized thin-disk lasers that have better focusability and efficiency for high-precision processing. His team was the first to create highly efficient frequency-doubled thin-disk lasers with output powers over 400 W.

Dr. Ahmed has also been deeply involved in high-power ultrafast laser amplifier work, leading multi-pass and regenerative thin-disk amplifiers. His group presents work on thermal lens modeling, the gas-lens effect, and the optical components needed for more stable systems with better beam quality in the high-average-power ultrafast regime. This has been crucial in developing petawatt-class laser drivers for research.

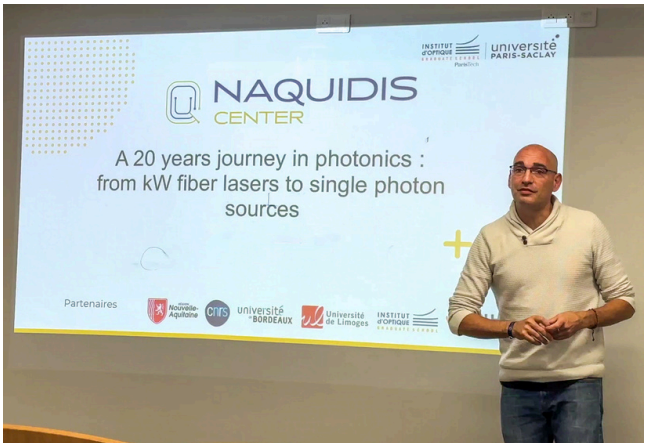
By: Mahmoud Tantawy (‘25-’27)

iPSRS students with industrial and academic speakers

Guest Companies

NAQUIDIS positions itself as an innovation center, with the goal of jointly building high-value-added projects in the field of photonics and quantum technology, relying on its cross-disciplinary collaboration capabilities.

Whether it's mid-infrared sensing, quantum simulation, or hybrid quantum computing, all their projects are addressing a core issue, how to bring cutting-edge science to life in industrial scenarios.



"Our mission at NAQUIDIS is bridging these domains, from light sources and nonlinear optics to quantum-grade integrated systems."

Dr. Johan Boullet

By: Fang Zhao ('25-'27)

GFH GmbH was created in October 1998 under Lucas Variety Systems, by Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans Joachim Helml. The company has gone through rapid changes in ownership and in 2012 began to focus on laser micro machining and has become one of the global leaders in the design and engineering of ultrafast laser precision machines.

Their laser technology is applied in numerous types of processing that necessitate tight tolerance and zero deterioration, such as laser turning, laser cutting, laser drilling and laser engraving. These lasers offer unparalleled accuracy, minimal thermal impact, and adaptability to a wide range of materials. All of these qualities enabling levels of intricacy in micromachining tasks that were previously unachievable.

By: Holly Lewis ('25-'27)

Four iPSRS Students Receive Prestigious International Scholarships in Optics and Photonics

The iPSRS consortium is proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of four students currently enrolled in the programme, who have been awarded selective scholarships from two American scientific societies : OPTICA and SPIE.

Melany receives the SPIE Optics and Photonics scholarship

Melany Koral Soto Carrion (Cohort 2025–2027) has been awarded the SPIE Optics and Photonics Scholarship, an internationally recognized distinction celebrating students with outstanding potential to advance the fields of optics and photonics which provides a US$3,100 financial award.
This prestigious award recognizes not only Melany's academic excellence, but also her leadership and dedication to STEM outreach activities.

James, Tobi and Natenaile receive the Prestigious Optica Amplify Scholarship

James Adah Ameh (Cohort 2025-2027), **Tobi Naomi Ajagbe** (Cohort 2024-2026) and **Natenaile Asmamaw Shiferaw** (Cohort 2025–2027) have been awarded the **Optica Amplify Scholarship.**

Each year, only ten Black undergraduate and Master's students worldwide are selected for this highly competitive scholarship, which provides a US$10,000 financial award, a one-year Optica membership, mentorship opportunities, and participation in the 2026 Amplify Optics Immersion Program.

The exceptional achievement of these four iPSRS students underscores the program's academic excellence and its students' dedication to advancing the fields of optics and photonics.

Life at UPEC: Taking the Opportunity to Explore Paris

Students from the iPSRS '24-'26 cohort exploring the Jardin du Luxembourg (From left to righ: Adrian G., Teagan K., Ahmed A., and Ömer H.)

Students who decide to follow the iPSRS specialization track of Biometrics and Intelligent Vision will find themselves at Université Paris-Est Créteil (UPEC) for their third semester of studies. UPEC's faculty of science and technology is less than 10 km outside of Paris in the commune of Créteil. This ideal location, in combination with the hybrid format of the courses, where students can join any of the class sessions online, offers students the incredible opportunity to explore one of the world's most beloved cities.

It is certain that Paris has a reputation for being 'très cher,' but it is possible for students to enjoy all that Île-de-France has to offer while keeping their budget. There are plenty of completely free museums in Paris that students can visit on a rainy afternoon after class. Some of these include: Musée Bourdelle, Musée des Archives Nationales, Musée Curie (which might be of particular interest to those enrolled in the iPSRS program), and Musée de la Vie Romantique.

For students who are less than 26 years old and are residents of the EU (this includes Titre de Séjour holders!), it is possible to access even more famous Parisian monuments for free. The Louvre Museum, Musée d'Orsay, Musée Rodin, and Château de Versailles are not to be missed. The students who are older than 26 can also experience all of this amazing culture for free–on the first Sunday of every month. In the case of the unusually sunny day between the months of September and January, students should take the opportunity to visit any of the gorgeous green spaces within the city. Students who want to relax outdoors among multiple iconic monuments should visit the Jardin des Tuileries, the Jardin du Luxembourg or Bois de Vincennes.

It is important that students take advantage of the culture, history, and art at their disposal. After all, in addition to reaching academic goals, iPSRS, and all Erasmus Mundus programs are about gaining cultural awareness, new perspectives, and learning how to be a better global citizen.

By: Teagan Kilian ('24-'26)

Life at VU: Learning and Exploring the Old Town in Vilnius

With Vilnius University joining the iPSRS program in 2024, Maryam Ayaz became the first student to begin this new academic journey at the university, located in the heart of Lithuania.

Studying at Vilnius University was a rewarding experience both academically and personally. Vilnius is a beautiful city, especially during autumn when the old town is covered in warm yellow colors. The cost of living was relatively affordable, which made it easier to enjoy local food and culture while studying. The university also provided a welcoming environment for international students, and classmates were supportive, even creating a group chat to share updates about academic activities and upcoming events.

Academically, the Condensed Matter and Photonics track offered a strong connection between coursework and laboratory practice. Courses such as Advanced Methods of Microscopy helped build a clear understanding of techniques, including SEM, STEM, and AFM, which were later applied directly in research projects. Semiconductor physics courses also helped in understanding material properties at a deeper level. The university's advanced laboratory facilities, combined with detailed guidance from faculty, gave students valuable hands-on experience, while

Maryam Ayaz ('24-'26) is celebrating Christmas at Vilnius Cathedral, one of the city's most iconic and historic landmarks.

visits to multiple research labs provided further insight into modern microscopy tools and experimental methods.

For future students, she strongly recommends the track at Vilnius University to anyone interested in materials science or quantum materials research. She emphasized that the program not only strengthens technical knowledge but also contributes to personal growth. According to her, the well-established balance between coursework and laboratory training makes this specialization an excellent choice for building a strong research foundation.

By: Hussain Tariq ('25-'27)

Life at UJM: Bridging Photonics and AI in the Heart of City of Design

Studying at Université Jean Monnet offered Deborah Abigun a unique opportunity to explore the growing connection between photonics and artificial intelligence. Although the earlier version of the program did not fully integrate AI into the coursework, her previous background in machine learning made it possible to independently connect both fields. This allowed Deborah to apply data-driven methods to photonics problems and gain a broader understanding of interdisciplinary research.

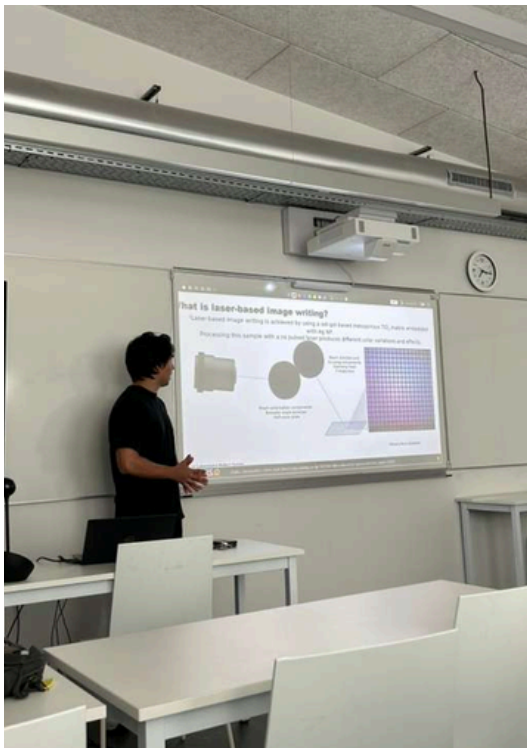
Deborah Adigun ('23–'25) celebrating her graduation at Université Jean Monnet in Saint-Étienne, marking the successful completion of her academic journey.

While the laboratory sessions in the program provided a solid foundation, the most impactful experience came through the summer internship and master's thesis. She worked on terahertz spectroscopy, an area that later became central to ongoing PhD research. Building on this experience, she now uses machine learning techniques to investigate the relationship between optical and terahertz properties of carbon-based quantum dots, showing how the specialization can lead directly into advanced research.

Reflecting on the experience, Deborah emphasized that this track is especially valuable for those interested in combining photonics with computational tools. For future students, the advice is to choose the specialization strategically by building on existing strengths while remaining open to unfamiliar subjects. According to her, meaningful growth often happens at the intersection of disciplines, where new knowledge can shape both research direction and future career opportunities.

By: Hussain Tariq ('25-'27)

Summer Internship at Laboratoire Hubert Curien



Adrian Garza's internship defense at Université Jean Monnet

Last summer, I found a listing on the master's programme website and applied for a research position at Laboratoire Hubert Curien, on a project run in collaboration with Toppan Security. The work combined photonics and machine learning to improve how security features on documents such as passports, banknotes, and identity cards, are reconstructed from plasmonic metasurfaces.

My role was to build a clustering-based machine learning framework to map those relationships. Over the course of the internship, I improved the clustering metrics performance and, separately, developed an interactive visualisation tool that grew out of my own curiosity about how to make the data more legible.

The work was harder than I expected and more absorbing than I anticipated. Problems that look clean on paper — classify these colours, match these parameters — turn out to carry real complexity when the data is messy and physical constraints are applied. Nothing in my coursework had quite prepared me for that gap between knowing a method and making it work on a real dataset.

For students unsure whether to pursue an internship, my main advice would be: don't wait for an opportunity that feels like a perfect match for where you think you're headed. Internships are perfect opportunities to figure yourself better. Exploring a domain you haven't studied deeply doesn't close doors — it tends to open ones you didn't know were there.

By: Adrián Garza ('24-'26)

Interview with Professor Hubert Konik

Prof. Konik is an Associate Professor at Université Jean Monnet in Saint-Étienne, France, and a researcher at the Laboratoire Hubert Curien, where he studies how machines can approximate the human perception of scenes and faces. Still, his direction is very clear: technology must remain at the service of people, keeping in mind its impact on humans and the planet.

Texto

Recent research and its impact

Prof. Konik's focus is on **assistance, quality of life, and health**. One example is his work on **micro-emotions** in patients with very limited mobility, such as people in a coma. Subtle movements linked to their emotional state are almost impossible to monitor continuously in daily practice. Still, computer vision can help detect and acknowledge these signals, offering patients a form of response and presence.

Another application concerns the **assessment of pain and urgency in medical centres**. He envisions a vision system that observes faces and posture in waiting rooms, not to diagnose, but to help staff see who might be in greater distress.

"Technology adds a layer of information; it does not replace judgment, empathy, or accountability".

Prof. Hubert Konik

In this sense, **facial expression and pain detection support medical caregivers without replacing them**. Computer vision classifies patterns and detects signals that we might miss, but the final responsibility, especially in sensitive domains like health, must remain with trained professionals.

By: Melany Soto ('25-'27)

Interview with Héctor J. Morales Gómez

Research Assistant at ZEISS

Advise for M1 Students

Well, one key piece of advice is that even subjects in the master's program that may not seem to have an immediate application can turn out to be very valuable. **The program is designed by experts** who understand the current state of the art in photonics, so even topics that feel very theoretical, like diffraction integrals in optics, often have important real-world applications in industry. For that reason, I would encourage students to take all courses seriously, even when the practical relevance is not immediately obvious.

Another important aspect is making the most of the **summer internship and master's thesis period**. In today's job market, which is quite competitive, especially in fields like science and technology, these experiences can make a significant difference. Having a strong internship, a well-known company, or meaningful results from your thesis, such as a publication or solid project outcomes, can really smooth the transition into your next step after the master's.

From iPSRS to an Industrial PhD at ZEISS

After three semesters in iPSRS, I secured a master's thesis at Carl Zeiss in Oberkochen.

Around that time, I began considering a PhD, though I was also aware of the common advice to first gain industry experience.

My supervisor introduced me to the idea of an industrial PhD, a path that combines applied research in a company with academic collaboration. It involves balancing two expectations: publishing from the university side and developing practical technologies for the company, which can be challenging.

Unlike a traditional PhD focused mainly on publications, this route also requires active involvement in company projects and meetings. Now in my final year, I can say the start was tough. I moved straight from my master's into the program, but over time, I found my rhythm. AsI near completexperience feels rewarding.

By: Joshua Dakim (25'-27')

Interview with Muhammad Moazam

GenAI Technical Lead at Stellantis

Skills Acquired During Studies That Helped My Career

My specialization was in photonics and machine learning, but over time, I've shifted more fully toward machine learning. While photonics is a fascinating and highly research-oriented field, opportunities for development roles are relatively limited compared to more mainstream areas.

Machine learning, on the other hand, offers broader and more dynamic career opportunities, especially with the rapid growth of generative AI. That's what motivated my transition, and I'm now primarily focused on machine learning, particularly in the area of generative AI.

Reasons For Joining iPSRS Programme

I chose the iPSRS program because of my genuine interest in its multidisciplinary nature, which really stood out to me. Coming from a technical background in computer science and with an earlier interest in physics, I saw it as a perfect opportunity to bring these areas together and explore their intersection. The program has helped me grow both academically and personally. Like any strong master's program, it pushed me to expand my knowledge, explore different areas of science, and gain a broader perspective. In the end, it has been very valuable in shaping and supporting my career path.

Advise for M1 Students

My advice to M1 students would be to stay curious, especially about photonics. It's a fascinating and rapidly evolving field with a lot of future potential, so it's worth exploring it deeply and keeping an open mind about where it can lead.

At the same time, I would strongly encourage them to make good use of AI tools. Integrating AI, particularly machine learning, into your skill set can add significant value, especially since there's already a clear overlap between photonics and these technologies. Building competence in both areas can open up a wider range of opportunities.

By: Joshua Dakim (25'-27')

Catching up with Fromsa and Kombat on life after the UPEC Computer Vision track

Fromsa Teshome Negasa
PhD Student at Tampere University

What made your profile strong enough to land a thesis at Sony Europe?

My background matched the project well: photonics, biometrics, computer vision, and coding. I also stayed in touch after an earlier rejection and came back when the timing fit the thesis better.

What did the Sony interview actually involve?

The interview was rigorous, but not in the "solve this live with coding" sense. They were very critical about my CV, my projects, my courses, and whether my background really fit the role.

What was genuinely the hardest part during your thesis?

The hardest part was the data. The whole project depended on getting the data into the right form before it could work properly with the model.

How much of the iPSRS curriculum was useful for you?

The curriculum helped me a lot. I did not have to learn a whole new optics background from scratch, I mostly had to go back to my notes and build on what I already had.

How different are expectations in your current PhD with the Microsoft Surface team compared to purely academic research

The expectations seem different because the work has to satisfy both sides. Academically, it should produce something useful for research; on the company side, it should also make sense for a real product.

How many applications or attempts did it realistically take before you secured your Sony thesis?

It was not one neat application. I had several conversations and options running in parallel until one finally matched properly.

What's one thing you wish you had started earlier during iPSRS that would have made your path smoother?

Take the admin side seriously early. Getting the offer is not the end of the process; visa issues, paperwork, and timing can still ruin it if you are late.

One honest piece of advice to current iPSRS students after UPEC?

Don't rely on one path. Keep a good relationship with your supervisors, it can lead to a strong recommendation later. Apply widely and early. Do not focus only on big company names, and keep in mind other openings in labs or research groups.

By: Nosa Inwe (25'-27')

Bakpen Kombat
PhD Student at UMC Utrecht

How much of what we learn at UPEC actually matters on day one of a PhD?

Pretty much all of it matters. What I'm doing now is still very close to what I learned at UPEC, especially on the AI and computer vision side.

Radiotherapy has zero margin for error. Does that clinical reality change how you actually write and test your deep learning models?

Yes, completely. In radiotherapy, you are not just segmenting an image. You are trying to make the model think more like a radiation oncologist, and that changes everything. I don't use only image data; I also bring in clinical reports and the reasoning clinicians use when delineating the tumour. When evaluating the models, I don't stop at standard segmentation metrics. I also evaluate clinically: are the contours anatomically and clinically reasonable, how much time does a clinician need to edit them, and can they be used for treatment planning without compromising the dose the patient would otherwise receive? So this changes the whole pipeline, from model design to evaluation to clinical use.

One concept from UPEC you use every week, and one thing you had to learn on the fly?

The core idea I still use all the time is how models learn through gradient descent and backpropagation. What I had to learn later was model selection, knowing which models are actually worth training.

Did ETH Zurich or Paris help you land the Utrecht PhD, or did you apply cold online?

I found the PhD online and applied directly. But my internships and my referee, especially my thesis supervisor, made the application much stronger.

Everyone panics about the six-month master thesis. At what point during your time in Paris did you realize you had to stop chasing perfection and just write the report?

I did not stop chasing results and then start writing. I did both together, writing the report as the project became clearer.

What should students build or read to stand out in AI for medical imaging?

Show a consistent pattern of interest. Use projects to build that direction, and learn tools people actually use in medical imaging AI, like PyTorch and MONAI.

If you could hand a note to yourself on day one of the iPSRS program, what specific thing would you tell yourself to stop stressing about?

I'd tell myself to stop stressing so much about grades. You still need to pass, do your work, and stay on top of deadlines, but iPSRS is not the kind of programme where grades alone carry you. After school, most opportunities care far more about your CV, your projects, and what you can actually do than about chasing perfect grades. I'd still work hard, but I'd focus more on understanding the concepts and building experience.

By: Nosa Inwe (25'-27')

MANUTECH
SLEIGHT
Université de Lyon

Expanding Access through Erasmus Mundus, Manutech-SLEIGHT and Strategic Partnerships

The Erasmus Mundus programme offers outstanding opportunities to students worldwide through highly attractive scholarships. However, the number of funded places remains limited.

To address this challenge and strengthen the programme's long-term sustainability, iPSRS actively develops partnerships with industry and academia to create additional funding opportunities and broaden access to excellence.

A Programme at the Heart of Innovation

iPSRS trains experts in photonics and optical sciences across key sectors: medical diagnostics, environmental monitoring, telecommunications, quantum technologies, and Industry 4.0.

"Our goal is to create meaningful collaborations that benefit both students and partners, while shaping the future workforce in photonics and optical sciences."
— Elena Vlaxopanagiotis, iPSRS Project Manager

Enhancing student support

iPSRS works closely with partners such as the **Manutech-SLEIGHT Graduate School,** which contributes to the creation of additional scholarships for international students. In parallel, the programme mobilises mobility grants and regional funding schemes, ensuring students benefit from the best possible financial and academic conditions.

This collaborative approach allows iPSRS to:

- increase the number of funded students
- attract top international talent
- enhance the overall learning experience

Become an iPSRS partner and get :

Exclusive Invitations to our networking events & seminars

Targetted visibility in optics and photonics

Access to international talent

Internships, thesis candidates

Scholarship named after your company

Strategic role in programme development (EAB)

By partnering with iPSRS, you directly support student success and innovation by actively contributing to the developpment of your future workforce.

📩 **If you wish to become an iPSRS partner, please contact: master.PSRS@univ-st-etienne.fr**

First day of classes at Université Jean Monet

La Sainté Rose: Charity Run for Ligue contre le cancer

Cruise to Tallinn with UEF Epsilon student association

Northern lights - Joensuu

Birthday party - Joensuu

First day of classes at UEF

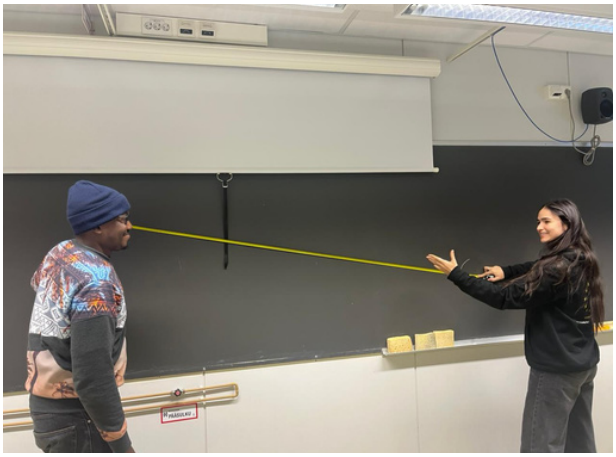
UJM Erasmus culture dinner

Lead editor:
Melany Soto

Writers:
Melany Soto
Ngoc Minh
Maryam Forouhari
Natenaile Asmamaw
Mahmoud Tantawy
Fang Zhao
Holly Lewis
Bianca Garcia
Teagan Kilian
Hussain Tariq
Adrián Garza
Joshua Dakim
Nosa Inwe

Editors:
Maryam Forouhari
Melany Soto
Alex Bramwell

iPSRS project manager:
Elena Vlaxopanagiotis



To find out more about iPSRS
Visit our website

www.linkedin.com/company/ipsrs-emjm | www.instagram.com/ipsrs.emjm

iPSRS

Co-funded by the European Union