

INT2ACT Doctoral Network, funded by the European Union, opens recruitment of Doctoral Candidates

Innovative Nucleic Acids Technologies for Analysis, Detection and Treatment

The INT2ACT consortium has been awarded funding from the European Union's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) to launch a new Doctoral Network. The project aims to advance the use of nucleic acids (NAs), the building blocks of genetic material, in personalised medicine. The project unites top universities and industry partners to develop new ways to detect and study NAs from patient samples, improve RNA sequencing and create better methods for designing and delivering NA-based treatments. Alongside its scientific goals, INT2ACT will also train 15 doctoral candidates (DCs) through a unique programme that prepares them for successful careers both within and beyond academia. The project will begin in January 2026, offering 15 fully funded PhD positions.



Why nucleic acids?

In recent years, NAs have become essential tools in modern medicine, enabling progress in cancer immunotherapy, infectious disease diagnostics, and rare disease treatment. New genetic technologies like CRISPR, which can cut and change DNA, and RNA sequencing, which reads our genetic messages, are helping scientists find better ways to treat diseases like cancer and rare disorders. But many of these tools are still hard to use in real-world healthcare. For example, it's not always easy to spot very small amounts of genetic material; current methods can be slow or limited, and delivering these treatments safely inside the body remains a big challenge.

Partners and recruitment

INT2ACT brings together integrated and multidisciplinary expertise to develop innovative technologies for the detection and analysis of NAs, including seven academic institutions and four industry partners:

- University of Udine
- Asociiacion Instituto de Investigacion Sanitaria Biogipuzkoa
- <u>Italian Institute of Technologies</u>
- Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry
- University of Southampton
- University College Dublin
- Baseclick GmbH
- National Institute for Bioprocessing and Research and Training
- Technion Research and Development Foundation Ltd.
- Flomics Biotech SL
- Nanovery Ltd.

15 DCs will be recruited and enrolled in a structured, **interdisciplinary and intersectoral training programme** combining academic research with industry experience.

More information about the individual research projects, requirements and the application process is available on the project website: <u>int2act.eu/open-positions</u>.

Recruitment for 15 PhD positions is open until 31 January 2026.

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