



## OPEN SESAME Training Fellowships, 2017–Call

Document date: May - 2017, **Deadline: 7<sup>th</sup> July -2017**

### Background-1

The International Centre for Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME) is established in Jordan, under the auspices of UNESCO. Its mission is to promote international collaboration in the Middle East and neighbouring countries using synchrotron light for basic and applied research in physics, chemistry, biology, materials science, the environment, medicine, archaeology and other research areas of relevance to the Region. For more information, visit: [www.sesame.org.jo](http://www.sesame.org.jo)

In March 2017, SESAME's synchrotron main ring stored more than 30 mA. SESAME official inauguration is scheduled for May-16<sup>th</sup>.

The SESAME laboratory will come into operation with two 'day-one' beamlines, IR and XAFS/XRF see below. Two additional beamlines, currently under design/construction, are MS and MX.

The seven beamlines, approved for the first operational phase of SESAME, are listed just below:

1. IR (infrared spectromicroscopy)
2. XAFS/XRF (X-ray absorption fine structure/X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy)
3. MS (materials science)
4. MX (macromolecular crystallography)
5. Soft X-ray Beamline
6. SAXS/WAXS (small-angle and wide-angle X-ray scattering)
7. Tomography Beamline

### Background-2

The European Union is supporting the training needs of the SESAME Light Source through a Horizon2020 project funded under the H2020-INFRA-SUPP-2016-1 call. The project, OPEN SESAME, it started on 1 January 2017. OPEN SESAME is coordinated by ESRF with the participation of ten additional organisations: SESAME, SOLEIL, CERN, CELLS-ALBA, CNRS-Ipanema, Instruct, INFN, ELETTRA, DESY and CYI. These eleven organisations are referred hereafter as the 'OPEN SESAME facilities'.

The overall objective of OPEN SESAME is to support the training needs of SESAME Light Source and to ensure its efficient exploitation by researchers across the eight SESAME Members: Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority, and Turkey.

To this end, OPEN SESAME is composed of four work packages: WP1 "Management and dissemination", WP2 "SESAME staff training and exchange programme", WP3 "Building user capacity in the local science and technology landscape" and WP4 "Integration of SESAME into public and social-economic landscapes".

In this context, Task 3.2.2 of WP3 is "**Building light source know-how in young researchers**". This task, led by CELLS-ALBA synchrotron, includes a short term Fellowship programme for young researchers at OPEN SESAME European Facilities. A minimum of 18 Fellowships, ranging between 4 to 12 weeks, will be funded in two calls.

Therefore, and in the context of this capacity building initiative, Fellowships will be available for young



scientists from SESAME Members to allow them to develop skills in European OPEN SESAME laboratories for projects related to the aforementioned seven beamlines. Priority will be given to applications with training projects related to the first four beamlines: IR, XAFS/XRF, MS and MX.

All applications received will be reviewed by an OPEN SESAME Committee.

#### Scope of this action

To fund a minimum of 9 Fellowships, with duration ranging between 4 to 12 weeks, at OPEN SESAME European Facilities for nationals of SESAME Members.

#### Applicants / beneficiaries

The applicants/beneficiaries of the present Call must be nationals of SESAME Members (Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority and Turkey) enrolled in a Master or PhD programme in a SESAME Member organization. The enrolment must be proven to be in place on the date of submission of the application.

- Ability to work in a multicultural environment with a multidisciplinary team of scientists and engineers.
- Excellent oral and written command of English.
- Highly motivated and willingness to travel abroad.

#### Fellowship availability and their duration

Through the above-stated international capacity building project, a minimum of 9 training Fellowships are being offered (the final number will depend upon the applications and the number of weeks of the selected Fellowships). These Fellowships may be of a duration of a minimum of 4 weeks and a maximum of 12 weeks. The stays are expected to start in early 2018. The appropriate visa should be arranged after the selection procedure and before the start of the stay.

The total budget available for this call is 60.400,00 €. Each selected applicant will receive a fixed amount for all travel expenses (1.000,00 €) and a fixed total amount for all living allowances (700,00 € per week). Therefore, the bursaries will range from a minimum of 3.800,00 € for a 4-week stay to a maximum of 9.400,00 € for a 12-week stay. However, in order to optimise the effectiveness of the available funding and the training needs, applications of a duration of 8 weeks (6.600,00 €) are encouraged.

#### Application and documentation

The applicants must apply for this call sending an email, **exclusively** to the following email address [opensesame@cells.es](mailto:opensesame@cells.es), with the following information:

In this unique email, that it will be formally considered as the application, the applicants must attach the following documents written in **English**, dated, signed and in PDF format.

- A detailed C.V. (including full name and address, full passport details (stating his/her nationality) and contacting email address) with a clear indication of academic qualifications and positions held; major fields of training and research experience (if applicable). It is compulsory to be enrolled in a Master or PhD programme in a SESAME Member Organisation. Hence, the corresponding certificate or letter from the University/Organization must be annexed to the CV. *(Guide: ≈2-4 pages)*
- A research/training project describing the tasks to be carried out at the OPEN SESAME European Facility and connected to the SESAME seven beamlines. *(Guide: ≈2 pages)*
- An acceptance letter from the OPEN SESAME hosting facility connected to the research/training project. If co-funding from other sources is foreseen, this should be clearly stated. The expected duration of the stays (in weeks from 4 to 12) should be explicitly stated as well as the full name, position and email address of the Mentor/Tutor of the applicant at the Facility. It must be also stated that 'bench fees' are not applicable as there is not funding for this concept. *(Guide: 1 page)*
- A motivation letter from the applicant including a list of skills in which training is being sought. In this letter, it should be stated the number of weeks to be funded by this Fellowship programme. *(Guide: ≈1 page)*
- One recommendation letter from an experienced scientist who know the applicant's career. The applicant level of English should be described in this letter.

Any request received to another email address different from the indicated above will not be taken into account for this call.

In case the information/documentation sent to [opensesame@cells.es](mailto:opensesame@cells.es) is incomplete or susceptible of being amended, the applicant will have ten (10) calendar days to amend it, with express warning of rejection of the application, if the request is not attended in such a time. This request for information will be always channelled through [opensesame@cells.es](mailto:opensesame@cells.es) email address by the Task 3.2.2 working team.

#### Time limit for applications

This call will open on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May at 09:00 (ECT) and it will close on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July, 2017 at 23:59 (ECT). Applications received out of this time window will not be considered.

Acknowledgment will be provided within 1 week of the reception of the application by email. This email will state if the application is considered complete or if some information is lacking. If there is not reception of the acknowledgment, please contact directly the task leader: Prof. Miguel A. G. Aranda <[migarcia@cells.es](mailto:migarcia@cells.es)>

#### Selection process and expected output

OPEN SESAME Fellowship selection Committee is composed by four members: i) WP3 Leader, ii) SESAME Scientific Director, iii) a member of the SESAME Training Advisory Committee, and iv) WP1 Leader. In the case of unexpected event(s), these members could be replaced by OPEN SESAME participants with the appropriate background and knowledge.

The Committee will analyse and mark the five above stated documents. The matching between the scope of the requested Fellowships and the training needs for the future users of SESAME will be the considered.

Furthermore, a broad distribution throughout the SESAME Members will be promoted. Gender balance is a priority and it will be taken into consideration in the selection process. The Committee could electronically interview short-listed applicants if it is deemed appropriate.

Due to the funding limitations, the Committee could award reduced stays, always within the 4-12 weeks range. Should applicants not accept a Fellowship, the Committee may offer the Fellowship to applicants on a ranked reserve list.

The first round of selected candidates are expected to be known in autumn 2017 in order to start the corresponding stays in early 2018.

### **Rights and commitments undertaken by applicants upon acceptance of a Fellowship**

#### **Rights:**

→ To have a Mentor/Tutor at the hosting OPEN SESAME European Facility.

→ To have a corresponding person at CELLS-ALBA to address any issue related to this Fellowship.

→ To receive 90% of the total funding, 4 weeks in advance of the start of the Fellowship. To this end, CELLS-ALBA will contact the successful applicants to address every administrative detail. In any case, the funds will not be transferred until the appropriate VISA (student or training, etc.) is obtained and a copy forwarded to CELLS-ALBA.

→ To receive the remaining 10% after the end of the stay and the submission of the corresponding report (see below).

#### **Commitments:**

→ To follow the guidelines in place in the hosting institution: time-table, etc. Specifically, he/she must comply with all safety regulations.

→ To have a valid health insurance at the European hosting institution for the full duration of his/her stay.

→ If for whatever reason, the stay it is not carried out, the selected applicant must refund the full amount to CELLS-ALBA. In the unlikely case of stay interruption, the proportional part of the funding must be returned to CELLS-ALBA.

→ To be enrolled in a Master or PhD programme in a SESAME Member organization during the full duration of the stay.

→ To write and electronically submit to OPEN SESAME, at [opensesame@cells.es](mailto:opensesame@cells.es), a report describing the research/training carried out during the stay, not later than 8 weeks after finishing the corresponding visit. (Guide: ≈2-3 pages)

### **Personal Data Protection Clause**

The applicants, by the submission of the proposals, agree that CELLS-ALBA will gather their personal data that can only be distributed to the OPEN SESAME Fellowship selection Committee under the conditions foreseen in the Spanish Law of Personal Data Protection. Applicants have the right to modify and withdraw these data by addressing CELLS-ALBA through the email address, [opensesame@cells.es](mailto:opensesame@cells.es).

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