



**Announcement of competition for a PhD position (36 months) - XXXV cycle (academic year 2019/2020) -at the Department of Science and High Technology of the University of Insubria in the frame of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network (ITN) “Small-Molecule Drug Conjugates for Targeted Delivery in Tumor Therapy” (Magicbullet Reloaded) funded by the European Commission (Grant agreement no: 861316)**

### Item 1. Admission requirements

The position is open to candidates of any nationality, as long as they fulfill the requirements for the Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions:

- (1) Candidates who have already obtained a Ph.D. degree, or have more than 4 years of research activity (measured from the date when the researcher obtained the degree which would formally entitle him or her to embark on a doctorate in the country in which the degree was obtained), are not eligible.
- (2) Researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Italy for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the date of appointment

The ideal candidate must have a strong background and practical experience in synthetic organic chemistry, documented by MSc thesis or scientific publications, as well as practical experience in analytical methods (NMR, MS, HPLC). Excellent knowledge of English and a proven commitment to their studies is also required. A background in medicinal chemistry and peptide chemistry constitutes a preferable additional qualification.

The applicants must have acquired a Master Degree diploma giving access to doctoral studies in Chemistry (e.g. MSc in Chemistry, Organic Chemistry or Medicinal Chemistry) in the Country where the diploma was earned.

### Item 2. Goals of the MAGICBULLET RELOADED project

Despite the continuing development of new and more efficient treatments, cancer remains the second cause of premature death worldwide. Multi-faceted interdisciplinary research





efforts in industry and academia on different aspects of cancer have provided a knowledge basis for the development of novel therapeutic approaches.

The Marie-Sklodowska-Curie European Training Network Magicbullet :: Reloaded ([www.magicbullet-reloaded.eu](http://www.magicbullet-reloaded.eu)) will develop and employ approaches for selective, targeted delivery of a panel of anticancer drugs for directed tumor therapy. The activities of the consortium will be devoted to four different project areas: Small molecule-drug conjugates (SMDCs) and peptide-drug conjugates (PDCs); Multivalency and crosstalk with the immune system; Pharmacokinetics: Transport, drug release, and metabolism; Biological evaluation of the conjugates.

The consortium brings together interdisciplinary expert knowledge in Organic Chemistry, Peptide Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry, Drug Discovery, Biochemistry, Pharmacology and Cell Biology. This high complementarity is required for the different scientific tasks in the development pipeline. Vice versa, the recruited ESRs will be exposed to a challenging research environment leading to a broad range of scientific competences to be acquired.

### **Early Stage Researcher (ESR)**

**PhD Project Title:** Integrin ligand-immunomodulating agent conjugates for targeted immunoncological therapy.

**PhD Project description:** The ESR will be involved in the design and synthesis of antitumor conjugates consisting of peptidomimetic  $\alpha_v\beta_3$  or  $\alpha_5\beta_1$  integrin ligands and small molecules modulating the tumor protein p53 activity, or peptides with chemokine like activity. Linking and release strategies will be optimized and biological studies in cancer cell lines will be performed.

### **Academic Supervisor**

Prof. Dr. Umberto Piarulli, Università degli Studi dell'Insubria, Department of Science and High Technology

The e-mail addresses [umberto.piarulli@uninsubria.it](mailto:umberto.piarulli@uninsubria.it) and [s.gazzola@uninsubria.it](mailto:s.gazzola@uninsubria.it) can be used for informal enquiries regarding the project.

### **Start date**

The expected start date of the PhD project is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

## **Item 3. Applications**

The application for admission to PhD studies shall be submitted by the deadline **December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019, 12 pm (CET)**. Candidates must apply, exclusively on-line, following the instructions at the following link: <https://www.unibielefeld.de/chemie/oc3sewald/magicbullet-reloaded/positions.html>.





Applications should be submitted via e-mail (e-mail address: [magicbullet@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:magicbullet@uni-bielefeld.de)) and include the following documents (in English) as a single pdf file:

- Filled application form (where the applicant is expected to indicate preferences for up to 3 PhD positions within the network). The application form can be downloaded at the above mentioned link;
- Curriculum vitae including relevant skills, experience and publication list;
- Motivation letter (1 page);
- University transcripts and certificates: Bachelor and Master degrees. For EU Countries, the Diploma Supplement is recommended, see: <http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/diploma-supplement.en.htm>;
- University entrance diploma.

In addition, two reference letters are required. The applicant should ask her/his referees to send the letters separately and confidentially to the above e-mail address: [magicbullet@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:magicbullet@uni-bielefeld.de).

The same e-mail address can also be used for informal enquiries regarding the project and the application procedure.

Deadline: the applications and the letters of recommendation sent by the referees must be received by December 31, 2019.

Skype interviews will be organized for short-listed applicants in the period 7-24 January 2020.

Ranking of the applicants and recruitment of the selected candidate: 27 January – 5 February 2020.

#### Item 4. Evaluation Committee and Examinations

The Evaluation Committee is composed of three members chosen among professors and researchers of the University and, if necessary, of external experts. The Committee awards to each candidate up to a maximum of 60 points for each of the two evaluations (qualifications assessment and oral test). Oral tests are public and are considered passed if the candidate gets a score of no less than 40/60 points. The test results will be notified by means of an official publication of the ranking on the website of the University ([www.uninsubria.it/bandodottorati](http://www.uninsubria.it/bandodottorati)). The publication replaces any personal communication.

##### Assessment Criteria:

up to 60 points for the qualification assessment:

- Curriculum studiorum (graduation final mark or, for candidates awaiting the attainment of the Master's Degree, Self certification or certification of the English transcript of records of the Master's curriculum with dates and marks (max 30 points);





- publications on topics relevant for the PhD program (max 10 points);
- training activities and professional experience relevant for the PhD (max 10 points);
- any other assessable qualification, including language certifications and recommendation letters (max 10 points).

Only candidates awarded with a minimum of 40 points for the qualification assessment will be admitted to the interview. The interview will assess the motivations of the candidates for applying to this specific PhD program, their scientific interest and the ability to carry on research in the field of the Phd Projects.

The interview, which can be evaluated up to a maximum of 60 points, will assess a strong background in synthetic organic chemistry, a practical experience in analytical methods (NMR, MS, HPLC), excellent knowledge of English and a proven commitment to PhD studies.

#### Videoconference

Candidates may request to be interviewed remotely by videoconference or any other technology enabling remote communication, by sending an email to Prof. Umberto Piarulli ([Umberto.piarulli@uninsubria.it](mailto:Umberto.piarulli@uninsubria.it)).

Applicants should specify whether the connection will be through video conferencing services of the University (international standard H.323) or Skype.

Candidates must indicate their email address and the Skype account if they chose this option.

In case of video conferencing services offered by the University, a link needed to download and install a terminal h.323 software, interfaced with the University IT system and credentials to access it, will be sent to the candidate's email address. Few days before the interview, it will be necessary to make at least two link tests (an independent test with auto responder and a qualitative test with the University staff).

If connecting by Skype the candidate might be excluded from the competition if the personal account has not previously provided. If using the university video conferencing system, applicants might be excluded if not logging in according to the time and the modalities agreed with the Committee. Furthermore, candidates might be excluded in case of connection failure, absence of the candidate or if the candidate does not show a valid ID. The University of Insubria disclaims any responsibility in the eventuality of technical issues compromising a regular interview.

### Item 5. Course Enrollment

Candidates will be admitted to the courses according to the final ranking and the number of available places for each PhD course. Eligible candidates not completing their enrollment by the deadline, will be excluded. The competent offices will proceed further in the ranking giving formal notice to the parties concerned.





The rankings will be published on the website of the University ([www.uninsubria.it/bandodottorati](http://www.uninsubria.it/bandodottorati)). The publication replaces in all respects any personal communication. Candidates are requested to view the ranking, the possible scrolling of the ranking list and the peremptory terms of registration, in the notices published on the website [www.uninsubria.it/bandodottorati](http://www.uninsubria.it/bandodottorati).

Foreign applicants and Italian applicants with a foreign qualification will be required to produce the following documents by the date of enrolment into the PhD Program.

- Diploma and transcript of records legalized and officially translated by the Italian Diplomatic body (Embassy or Consulate) in the country where the qualification has been attained;
- “Dichiarazione di Valore in Loco” issued by the Italian Diplomatic body (Embassy or Consulate) in the country where the qualification has been attained;

### **Item 6. Marie Sklodowska Curie Actions Grants**

The gross EU contribution for an Early Stage Researcher under MSCA-Innovative Training Network foresees a living allowance (adjusted through the country correction coefficient), a mobility allowance and, if applicable at the date of the recruitment in the action, a family allowance. The final amount will not change in case of secondments to another beneficiary of the Magicbullet Reloaded project or partner organization.

Net amount, paid on a monthly basis, results from deducting all compulsory social security contributions. All allowances will be recognized according to Marie Sklodowska Curie Actions rules stated in the Guide for Applicants:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides\\_for\\_applicants/h2020-guide-appl-msca-itn\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/h2020-guide-appl-msca-itn_en.pdf)

### **Item 7. Incompatibility**

The registration to a PhD program is incompatible with the registration to any other PhD program, undergraduate or graduate programs, first or second level master programs, non medical specialization programs, in Italy and abroad, with the exception of joint programs agreements.

### **Item 8. Attendance**

The admission to a PhD program implies an exclusive and full time commitment. The Early Stage Researcher is obliged to attend the training activities and with full commitment to programs of study and the assigned research activities. The Teachers Board disciplines the attendance modalities of the PhD.





ESRs, as part of their training program, may perform tutoring activities for Bachelor and Master's students as well as integrative teaching activities. The PhD title will be issued at the end of the PhD cycle, once the final examination has been passed implying the submission and the discussion of a written dissertation (thesis) with a scientific research relevance, conducted with method from which important scientific results arise.

The final thesis will be filed in the open access University institutional archive, that will ensure the preservation and public consultation, total, partial, or only in bibliographic data.

### **Item 9. Tuition fees**

All PhD students (assignees and non-scholarships) are required to pay an annual contribution of €156.00

### **Item 10. Personal data**

According To legislative Decree No. 196 of June 30, 2003 ("Code for the protection of Personal data"), and of the general Regulations for the protection of data-EU Regulation 2016/679, the information on the processing of personal data is published on the University website

The university in implementation of the legislation on the subject adopted its three-year plan for the prevention of corruption and appointed the responsible for the prevention of corruption:

<https://www.uninsubria.it/amministrazione-trasparente/disposizioni-general/piano-triennale-la-prevenzione-della-corruzione-e>

### **Item 11. Reference laws**

For everything not specifically included in this competition notice, the University of Insubria complies with the legislation in force and the University regulation for the PhD courses.

### **Item 12. Recruitment and HRS4R**

Recruitment of the ESRs will be in accordance to the European Charter for Researchers (ECR) and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (CCRR), which provide the overarching framework of guidelines and requirements for the roles, responsibilities and entitlements of such positions, ensuring that selection procedures are open, transparent and merit-based. University of Insubria has been awarded the European Label "HRS4R – Human Resources Strategy for Researchers" in February 2019, therefore





it is fully compliant with art. 32 “Recruitment and working conditions for recruited researchers” of the Grant Agreement signed with European Commission.

For information relating to the competition procedures: [scuola.dottorato@uninsubria.it](mailto:scuola.dottorato@uninsubria.it)

Varese, 8 november 2019

The Rector  
*f.to Prof. Angelo Tagliabue*

**Person in charge of the administrative procedure (L. 241/1990):** Dott. Luca Azimonti –  
[scuola.dottorato@uninsubria.it](mailto:scuola.dottorato@uninsubria.it)





Annex 1 to call for the admission to PhD courses – XXXV cycle

<b>CHEMICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES</b>	
Scientific Area:	Chemistry; Geology; Biology; Medicine; Engineering
PhD Coordinator:	Prof. Alessandro Maria Michetti - alessandro.michetti@uninsubria.it
PhD Supervisor	Prof. Umberto Piarulli umberto.piarulli@uninsubria.it
Duration:	3 years
Department:	Science and High Technology
MSCA grants	1
Assessment:	Interview Only candidates awarded with a minimum of 40 points for the qualification assessment will be admitted to the interview.
Assessment criteria:	The interview will be focused on the candidate's scientific interests, motivation, and a proposal of an ideal research project; priority will be given to candidates presenting a research project related to the topics of this PhD. The knowledge of English will also be verified.
Calendar:	Date, time and place will be made public at the following address
Assessable Qualifications:	Complete Curriculum vitae, including education data, previous research experiences, thesis and publications.







	For candidates awaiting the attainment of the Master's Degree: self certification or certification of the English transcript of records of the Master's curriculum with dates and marks
	Self certification or certification of the English transcript of records the Bachelor's Degree with date, type of title and final mark
	Publications
	Any other useful qualification such as: specialization and postgraduate courses, awards, grants, teaching activities, fellowships, collaboration to research activities.
	Recommendation Letters (Max. 2), by University teachers or researchers.

