

Warsaw, 09.10.2026

The Director of the Institute of Physical Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences, announces a call for applications to establish new research groups at the Institute

[The Institute of Physical Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences \(IChF\)](#) is one of Poland's leading research institutions. In each of the three most recent evaluations of scientific activity, it received the A+ category (discipline: chemical sciences). IChF conducts extensive interdisciplinary research at the interface of chemistry, biology and physics, combining high-quality fundamental research with the development of solutions with practical application potential. Together with eight other research institutions, the Institute co-runs the Warsaw PhD School in Natural and BioMedical Sciences (Warsaw-4-PhD). IChF was the first institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences to receive the European Commission's "HR Excellence in Research" award, confirming its implementation of standards that foster a high-quality working environment and researchers' professional development.

The primary unit conducting research at IChF is a [research group \(RG\)](#). The Institute has 32 RGs, which enjoy considerable autonomy. Each group leader independently defines the research agenda, builds the group and secures funding for their own research programme. The groups share access to 11 specialised laboratories, providing advanced research equipment at no additional cost to IChF researchers. IChF research groups work across diverse and highly specialised thematic areas. To consolidate their research potential, achieve greater scale and strengthen the Institute's international visibility, the groups are assigned to three [Excellence Clusters](#) (ECs):

- (EC1) Advanced biomaterials and technologies for health
- (EC2) Photonics and light-driven processes
- (EC3) Catalysis and materials for sustainable transformations.

The Institute also includes the [International Centre for Translational Eye Research \(ICTER\)](#) - a centre of excellence conducting interdisciplinary research into new methods for diagnosing and treating eye diseases.

The Institute's motto is ***"From Dreams to Solutions: Advancing Chemistry Across Borders"***, reflecting our ambition to create an environment that shortens the path from scientific ideas to solutions with a tangible impact on society.

Through this call, we aim to select leaders of new research groups who will establish their groups at the Institute in 2027. We are seeking ambitious individuals with outstanding scientific achievements in the areas of interest defined by the IChF Excellence Clusters and a proven track

record of securing research funding. Up to three new groups are expected to be established. The call is open to both IChF employees and external candidates.

The Institute's offer includes, among other things, funding for the group leader's position, adapting laboratory space and quiet work areas to group members' needs, and funding to launch the planned research. The start-up package will be negotiated between the prospective group leader (the Applicant) and the Director of IChF during the recruitment process.

The selection process comprises several stages: (i) evaluation of the submitted documents by a committee appointed by the IChF Director; (ii) an online presentation of the proposed group's research programme; (iii) negotiations on the terms for establishing the group; and (iv) a formal opinion from the IChF Scientific Council. The process is described in detail in [Director's Order No. 52.2026](#).

Eligibility requirements for research group leaders:

- holds at least a doctoral degree,
- has a significant scientific and/or industrial achievements,
- has experience in leading a research project for which funding was awarded in a competitive manner and whose termination date was no earlier than one year before the planned commencement of the research group's operation,
- has at least twelve months of postdoctoral work experience at an institution other than the one at which they obtained their doctoral degree.

The Application must be prepared in English (unless otherwise specified) and comprise:

- a) an application for the establishment of a group, containing in particular:
 - i) the Candidate's full name,
 - ii) the name of the proposed group in Polish and in English,
 - iii) a description of the proposed research directions and objectives set in the context of the literature and in the context of the research areas specified in the call announcement,
 - iv) the Candidate's experience in the context of the planned research,
 - v) justification for choosing the Institute to implement the proposed research agenda,
 - vi) a research funding plan and a description of the research facilities necessary for its implementation,
 - vii) a concept for managing the research group.
- b) a document indicating one of the IChF clusters of excellence within whose thematic area the new group will fall, together with an indication of the Institute's groups or laboratories with which the proposed group could cooperate;
- c) the Candidate's curriculum vitae, including at least:
 - i) education,
 - ii) employment history,
 - iii) research projects which the Candidate led or in whose implementation they participated,

- iv) scholarships and awards received,
 - v) the most important presentations delivered at conferences or seminars (with invited presentations indicated),
 - vi) organisational and teaching experience,
 - vii) as well as a brief description of the most important scientific achievement.
- d) a list of publications and patents, indicating the publications in which the Candidate was the corresponding author.

All Applicants will receive feedback on their Application from the IChF Director. A decision not to establish a group is final; however, it does not preclude reapplying in a subsequent call.

The complete Application must be submitted electronically to: rekrutacja@ichf.edu.pl

The email subject line should read: Recruitment No. 69/2026

Application deadline: 30 October 2026 at 12:00

Expected date of announcement of the call results: 18 December 2026

Information on the processing of the Applicant's personal data for the purposes of this call:

By submitting your application, you consent to the processing of your personal data for the purposes of the recruitment process.

The controller of your personal data is the Institute of Physical Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences, with its registered office in Warsaw, Tax Identification Number (NIP): 5250008755 (the "Institute"). The Institute will process your personal data for the purposes of conducting scientific and research activities, providing services, and communicating with the Institute, on the basis of a contract (where processing is necessary for the performance of a contract or in order to take steps at your request prior to entering into a contract - Article 6(1)(b) GDPR), the Institute's legitimate interests (Article 6(1)(f) GDPR), and applicable law (Article 6(1)(c) GDPR), depending on the circumstances.

You have the right to request access to your personal data and obtain a copy of it; request its rectification (correction), erasure, or restriction of processing; exercise your right to data portability; lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority; withdraw your consent to processing at any time (withdrawal of consent does not affect the lawfulness of processing based on consent before its withdrawal); or object to the processing of your personal data. Further information is available on the Institute's website. https://ichf.edu.pl/theme/ichf/pliki/RODO_klauzula_informacyjna.pdf