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La Caixa Junior Leader Fellowship (Research Associate Position in Gravitational Wave Physics at IFAE)

The "Institut de Física d'Altes Energies" (IFAE) in Barcelona welcomes applications for a postdoctoral research position in Gravitational Waves (GWs) Physics, within the framework of the "La Caixa Junior Leader Programme" in Spain. The Postdoctoral Junior Leader fellowships programme is aimed at hiring excellent researchers, of any nationality, who wish to continue their research career in Spain or Portugal in the STEM area (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

IFAE is a member institution of the Virgo collaboration. A group of researchers from IFAE has taken significant responsibilities in the Virgo experiment related to the control of the stray light inside the experiment, which is considered a limiting factor for its sensitivity. The group plans for playing an important role in the ongoing commissioning, operations and upgrade of the interferometer. For the latter, IFAE is leading the construction of new baffles instrumented with photo sensors around the test masses.

In the physics analysis front, the IFAE research program, using LIGO/Virgo data, includes topics related to: compact binary coalescence and their mass/spin spectrum determination; search for primordial black holes as candidates for dark matter; searches for axion-like signals in GWs; Test of exotic models for Gravity beyond General Relativity; determination of the universe expansion rate using GWs; and using GWs as probes for inflation and phase transitions in the early universe. IFAE will be in a privileged position to analyze the LIGO/Virgo data and, in collaboration with IFAE's teams in CTA/MAGIC and Observational Cosmology, to fully profit from a multi-messenger approach. Finally, IFAE is actively exploring a long-term involvement in 3G terrestrial interferometry projects.

The Postdoctorate Junior Leader – Retaining program includes 15 postdoctoral fellowships for researchers of all nationalities to carry out research at any university or research centre in Spain or Portugal. For Spanish institutions, candidates must have resided in Spain more than 12 months in the last three years and have earned their doctoral degree two to seven years prior to the closing date of the call.

Programme details:

<https://fundacionlacaixa.org/en/postdoctoral-fellowships-junior-leader-call>

Online application:

<https://candidate.lacaixafellowships.org/login>

Interested candidates are encouraged to contact IFAE, acting as potential host institution for the position.

The application deadline is 7th of October.

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