

Announcement

# SAOT Young Researcher Award 2025

Closing date for the  
submission of applications  
is ~~February 28, 2025~~  
**March 31**

For the 13th time, the Erlangen Graduate School in Advanced Optical Technologies (SAOT) invites young researchers to apply for the SAOT Young Researcher Award (YRA) in Advanced Optical Technologies. The 100.000 € award is open to scientists with a proven record in optics, photonics and optical technologies.

Besides the prize money for research, the award allows for a twelve month research visit at Erlangen. The laureate will have the formal status of a guest professor and will give lectures and seminars for the doctoral candidates of SAOT. The maximum age at the date of application is 40 years.

Further details:

[www.saot.fau.de/saot-awards/young-researcher-award/](http://www.saot.fau.de/saot-awards/young-researcher-award/)



## Awardees



2008: **Prof. C. F. Kaminski**  
Cambridge University, UK



2009: **Prof. A. Boltasseva**  
Purdue University, USA



2010: **Prof. T. R. Meyer**  
Purdue University, USA



2011: **Prof. Z. Zalevsky**  
Bar-Ilan University, Israel



2012: **Prof. M. Booth**  
Oxford University, UK



2013: **Prof. J. Home**  
ETH Zurich, Switzerland



2014: **Prof. E. Berrocal**  
University of Lund, Sweden



2015: **Prof. A. Jesacher**  
Med. Univ. Innsbruck, Austria



2016: **Prof. D. Zibar**  
Technical University of Denmark



2017: **Dr. R. Horstmeyer**  
Duke University, USA



2018: **Prof. W. Cai**  
Shanghai Jiaotong University, China



2022: **S. Grauer, PhD**  
Penn State University, USA

*In 2006, the SAOT was established at Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg within the "Excellence Initiative by the German Federal and State Governments to Promote Science and Research at German Universities" to provide an interdisciplinary, structured education and research training program towards a doctoral degree (PhD) within a highly attractive research environment.*

## Announcement details:

# SAOT Young Researcher Award 2025



### Program

Optics is one of the key technologies of the 21st century. Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) hosts a number of highly recognized institutes in the field of optics, representing fundamental as well as applied optics in the Faculty of Sciences, the Faculty of Engineering, and the Faculty of Medicine. In 2006, the Erlangen Graduate School in Advanced Optical Technologies (SAOT) was established within the “Excellence Initiative by the German Federal and State Governments to promote Science and Research at German Universities” to provide an interdisciplinary, structured education program towards a doctoral degree (PhD) within a highly attractive research environment. One of the key concepts of SAOT is the integration of guest scientists in both research and education. The Young Researcher Award in Optical Technologies will be awarded to an outstanding young scientist in the field of optics and photonics to spend a year in Erlangen and to pursue research in collaboration with SAOT scientists. To strengthen collaborations, it is also possible and desirable to bring own scientific staff to Erlangen. The laureate will interact with the graduate students of SAOT by giving lectures and seminars.

### Conditions of Participation

The Young Researcher Award in Optical Technologies is open to young researchers with a proven record in optics, photonics and optical technologies. Research may be conducted in fundamental or applied optics, addressing research topics in physics, engineering or medicine. The maximum age at the date of application is 40 years.

Candidates should submit

- a curriculum vitae (max. 3 pages)
- a list of publications
- copies of the 3 most important publications
- a proposal for the research stay at Erlangen
- a letter of recommendation of at least 2 references

The prize winner will be selected by the SAOT Board of Directors.

### Remuneration

The award is remunerated with 100.000 € to be used either for the personal salary of the laureate or for consumables or equipment related to the research. The award winner will have the formal status of a guest professor and is expected to conduct research in Erlangen, starting within one year after the award winner has been announced. The prize money can be used for one continuous stay or for several stays within four years.

### Application

Please send your application to Prof. Dr.-Ing. Michael Schmidt, Director and Coordinator of SAOT, via e-mail: [saot-administration@fau.de](mailto:saot-administration@fau.de)

Deadline for application for the 2025 Young Researcher Award in Optical Technologies is ~~February 28~~ **March 31**, 2025.

The best applicants will be invited to give a presentation in person about their research plans. This will take place on Monday, 05.05.2025 in Erlangen. Travel costs will be covered.

The award winner will be announced in Mai 2025, with the award ceremony taking place July 25, 2025.