



The Abdus Salam

International Centre for Theoretical Physics



Post Title:	Associate Research Officer (part time)
Domain:	Condensed Matter and Statistical Physics
Post Number:	1ITSC PA123TP
Grade:	P-2 (50%) part time
Organizational Unit:	Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics
Primary Location:	Trieste, Italy
Recruitment open to:	Internal and external candidates
Type of contract:	Project Appointment
Deadline (<i>midnight Trieste time</i>):	07-JAN-2026

UNESCO Core Values: Commitment to the Organization, Integrity, Respect for Diversity, Professionalism

OVERVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE POST

Founded in 1964 by the late Nobel Laureate Abdus Salam and located in Trieste (Italy), the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) seeks to accomplish its mandate by providing scientists from developing countries with the continuing education and skills that they need to enjoy long and productive careers. ICTP has been a major force in stemming the scientific brain drain from the developing world. For more than 50 years, ICTP has been a driving force behind global efforts to advance scientific expertise in the developing world.

ICTP and the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) have recently started a collaborative project on "Statistical mechanics for active matter, complex systems and data science". Under the supervision of Head of Section/Research Scientist the incumbent will collaborate closely with scientists both from ICTP and SISSA to advance research in the scientific field of the project. The incumbent is also expected to actively participate in the ICTP programmes in their area of scientific expertise and should be in contact with similar institutions around the world and research scientists internationally to exchange knowhow and information.

The incumbent will perform the following functions:

Research:

- Undertake front-line research in Statistical Mechanics and especially its applications in fields related to active matter, complex systems, and data science

Program coordination and training:

- Organize seminars, schools, workshops, conferences and topical meetings.

Teaching and mentoring:

- Teach, as required, in Master Programs and/or in Diploma Course Programs
- Collaborate, as appropriate, with the Associates as well as other visitors to the Centre, especially those from developing countries.

As well as contribute to any additional activities that may be required to ensure the success of the collaborative project with SISSA.

COMPETENCIES

A successful candidate will be required to demonstrate the following competencies:

- Accountability.
- Communication.
- Teamwork.
- Innovation.
- Results focus.
- Planning and organizing.
- Knowledge sharing and continuous improvement.

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ICTP is governed by UNESCO, IAEA and Italy, and is a UNESCO Category 1 Institute

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- Advanced university degree (PhD or equivalent) in Physics or related areas

WORK EXPERIENCE

- At least 2 years of relevant professional experience in statistical mechanics of which preferably 1 year acquired at the international level

SKILLS/COMPETENCIES

- Ability to work quickly and efficiently under pressure, with minimum supervision, and to sustain periods with workload peaks.
- Discretion and capacity to deal efficiently and tactfully with visitors and staff members of different nationalities and cultural backgrounds and building partnerships between scientific institutions
- Ability to conduct research under moderate supervision
- Experience in organizing seminars and workshops
- Experience in teaching and mentoring Master and Diploma Students

LANGUAGES

- Excellent knowledge (spoken and written) of English.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Experience in an international environment and/or the United Nations (UN) system.
- Experience in a scientific organization or educational institute.

SKILLS/COMPETENCIES

- Knowledge and understanding of research environment.

LANGUAGES

- Knowledge of another UN official language (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish) or of Italian.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please note that for this position UNESCO will not reimburse expenses such as travel in connection with interviews, tests and relocation.

BENEFITS AND ENTITLEMENTS

UNESCO's salaries consist of a basic salary and other benefits which may include if applicable: 30 days annual leave, family allowance, medical insurance, pension plan etc.

For more information in benefits and entitlements, please consult [ICSC website](#) and [UNESCO's career website](#).

MORE INFORMATION

Please note that all candidates must complete an on-line application and provide complete and accurate information. To apply, please visit the UNESCO careers website. No modifications can be made to the application submitted.

The evaluation of candidates is based on the criteria in the vacancy notice, and may include tests and/or assessments, as well as a competency-based interview.

UNESCO uses communication technologies such as video or teleconference, e-mail correspondence, etc. for the assessment and evaluation of candidates.

Please note that only selected candidates will be further contacted and candidates in the final selection step will be subject to reference checks based on the information provided.

Candidates must use the UNESCO's online application system which is accessible through the following links:

For current UNESCO fixed-term staff members: *UNESCO Intranet* > *Tools* > *HR Apps* > [Careers](#). If you are working remotely, you should connect to Careers portal through *connect.unesco.org*

For all other candidates: <https://careers.unesco.org>

For information: Personnel Office, Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Strada Costiera, 11, 34151 Trieste, Italy.

E-mail: personnel_office@ictp.it, phone: +39-040-2240-595/596/695

AN ASSESSMENT EXERCISE MAY BE USED IN THE EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES.

**Research statements shall be sent to Personnel Office:
zkis@ictp.it**