

# OSA student chapter President, Giorgio Adamo gives an insight into life as a PhD student at the ORC

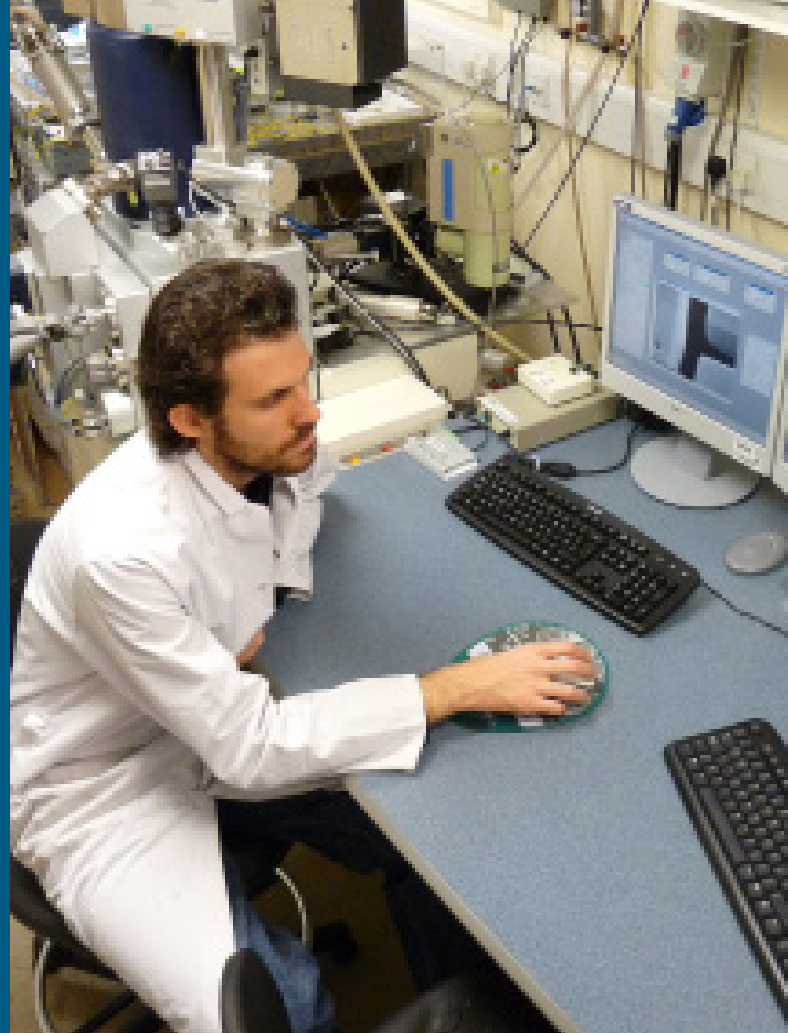
“I studied for my degree in Milan, during this period I spent two years in Stockholm studying a double degree programme. After completing my masters I spent nearly two years working in research for Pirelli Labs in Italy; however I was feeling the push towards the experience of a PhD related to Physics.

I believe it was my previous experience in Stockholm that gave me the drive to look for a PhD abroad, so I started surfing the Internet looking for PhD offers and that’s how I came across the ORC PhD programme literally by chance. I contacted the admissions team who were very helpful and asked me to come for a visit. I really liked the place so I decided to apply.

The ORC seemed to be a very friendly place, well organised, with an extremely motivating working environment; I can say now that I was right and this motivates me to work hard. Moreover, the research at the ORC spans such a broad range of topics that there are plenty of opportunities to learn about different areas of photonics, e.g. through the seminar series.

The staff here are really supportive, and provide a good service - you can always find someone to help you or redirect you to the correct person. My work is well supervised, I meet with my supervisor twice a week to talk over my progress and any problems that I have. Even though it may look scary to have such “control” I can tell you that it helps a lot in keeping your progress on track!

Social life at the ORC is another great aspect; you can find a large number of friendly students to hang around with who are willing to have as much fun as you are. Furthermore the ORC hosts a quite large graduate society, the OSA Student Chapter, which



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works hard to organise a series of social events involving ORC students and staff. The main social event is the OSA Arctic BBQ, last year it was very cold but was still a lot of fun!

The best thing about the ORC is its international character; internally there is a broad range of people from all over the world and externally collaborative work with international research groups has allowed me to gain some really good contacts from around the world.

I wouldn’t say there was anything bad about being a student here both work and life-wise!

If you are interested in photonics I recommend that you come to the ORC. It’s a great place to do a PhD, the University itself is quite big and the social atmosphere on campus is great.”

# OSA student chapter Vice President PhD student Kamalpreet Kaur talks about her time at the ORC

“After completing my schooling I took a BSc and MSc in Physics at Guru Nanak Dev University (G.N.D.U) Amritsar, India. I then completed a Master of Technology (M.Tech) in Applied Optics from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD), India. I went on to work in the Micro-Optics research group of Prof. Tschudi at the Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany, for three years.

I chose to study photonics for my PhD because my background is related to optics and it's an area that I find very interesting. The ORC was an obvious choice for me. I had heard a lot about the department from my husband who is now in his final year of his PhD here at the ORC. I joined Professor Rob Eason in the fascinating field of material processing using ultrafast lasers.

I love the open door policy at ORC; the fellow students, professors and other staff members are really friendly and supportive. You can go to them anytime and they are ready to help, listen to you and give you ideas. I am treated as a colleague rather than a student by my supervisor and am encouraged to do and think for myself rather than getting spoon fed.

I am currently the vice-president of



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the OSA Student Chapter and was the first year representative last year. We as a committee organise a number of social and academic events throughout the year. These include the arctic BBQ, the international food day, IONS, to name a few. It's great fun because everyone comes together like a giant family!

The best thing about being a student at the ORC is that when I graduate I will have a world recognised, highly acclaimed qualification that will open many doors into the world market for me! The worst thing is the amount of time I get to spend in the lab; I just wish that I could spend more time in there!”