

2026 Helmholtz – OCPC – Programme

for the involvement of postdocs in bilateral collaboration projects

PART A

Title of the project:

Measurement of the Pion transition form factor at the Mainz Microtron MAMI accelerator (PRIMA)

Helmholtz Centre and/or institute:

Helmholtz Institute Mainz / GSI Darmstadt

Project leader:

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Description of the project (max. 1 page):

The research group is located at the outpost of GSI Darmstadt, on the campus of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany. We are studying electromagnetic processes in $e+e-$ annihilation at the BES-III Experiment in Beijing. We extract among others the electromagnetic form factors of proton and neutron in the region of positive momentum transfer (Nature Phys. 17 (2021) 11, 1200-1204). In addition we prepare detector subsystems and physics analysis algorithms for the PANDA-experiment at FAIR in order to extract the time like form factors of the nucleon from antiproton-proton annihilation reactions.

In addition, we have the system responsibility for the electromagnetic calorimeter backward endcap of the PANDA-experiment. We are in the process of setting up the calorimeter in order to commission the backward endcap with a measurement at the MAMI accelerator in Mainz. We propose to measure the pion transition form factor at negative momentum transfer. This form factor can be related to one of the radiative corrections of the muon anomalous magnetic moment $(g-2)_\mu$, namely the hadronic light by light scattering (hLbL).

The postdoc candidate is required to participate in the setup of the experiment and the data acquisition system as well as to participate in the measurements and the subsequent data analysis. In parallel data analysis of the ongoing BES-III experiment in Beijing is possible and will guarantee high impact publications. Participation in the PANDA experiment is desired.

Description of existing or sought Chinese collaboration partner institute (max. half page):

We have a very fruitful collaboration with the BES-III collaboration at the Institute of High Energy Physics (IHEP) in the Chinese Academy of Science (SICAS) and all partner institutions within the collaboration. We help operating the BES-III experiment as well as analysing the BES-III data. Our expertise lies in the field of nucleon structure observable like nucleon electromagnetic form factors. Collaboration on these subjects as well as experimental aspects is highly desired.

Required qualification of the postdoc:

- PhD in high-energy physics in the field of hadron physics, nucleon structure observables or charmonium spectroscopy or related areas is required.
- Experience with data acquisition systems or data analysis is required. Modern data analysis in high energy physics requires some experience with simulation software packages like GEANT4.
- Additional skills in general aspects of experimental nuclear physics and experimental high-energy physics would be helpful but are not required.
- Language requirement: Good command of English language is mandatory for the collaboration in the project.