

Spencer Windhorst Jolly – CV of Failures

2025 – Paper rejected from APL Photonics (eventually accepted in Physical Review A)

Rejected ERC *Starting Grant* proposal

Not chosen for the second round of interviews for a tenure-track position at imec in Leuven

2024 – FWO-led Weave proposal not funded

Not chosen for the Académie royale de Belgique *Collegium* 2024

EIC *Pathfinder Open* grant proposal rejected

Not elected for FNRS *Chercheur Qualifié* nor ULB *Chaire non-profilée* long-term positions

Not chosen for the second round of interviews for a tenure-track position at imec in Leuven

Paper rejected from Physical Review E (eventually published in Optics & Laser Technology)

2023 – Rejected in the first round for a nanophotonics assistant professor position at TU Eindhoven

Paper rejected from Optics Letters (eventually accepted in Physical Review A)

Unsuccessful FNRS *Credit de Recherche* application (eventually partially funded internally at ULB)

Rejected ERC *Starting Grant* proposal

2022 – Not chosen for an interview for a lecturer (~assistant professor) position at Imperial College London

2021 – Not chosen for the 2021 Bernard J. Couillaud Prize prize by OSA

Not chosen to be on the Early-Career Editorial Advisory Board of APL Photonics

Rejected from the Marie-Curie Individual Fellowship call (79.6/100)

2020 – Unsuccessful FNRS postdoc application with ULB

Unsuccessful application to be an Optical Engineer on flat lenses at imec in Leuven

Rejected from the Marie-Curie COFUND call @ ULB

Unsuccessful PostDoc application to work on ARPES at imec in Leuven

Rejected from the Marie-Curie Individual Fellowship call (72/100)

Not chosen for the 2020 Ivan P. Kaminow early-career prize by OSA

2019 – Not chosen for the second round of interviews for a tenure-track position at imec in Leuven

Paper rejected from APL Photonics (eventually accepted at Optics Express in 2020)

Paper rejected from Nature and Nature Physics (eventually accepted at Physical Review X in 2020)

Unsuccessful PostDoc application to work on EUV photoresist studies at imec in Leuven

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Not chosen to be on the Early-Career Editorial Advisory Board of APL Photonics

2018 – Paper rejected from Nature Photonics and Optica (eventually accepted at J. Phys. Photonics in 2019)

Paper rejected from Nature Photonics (eventually accepted at Nature Communications in 2019)

2017 – Rejected late submission for the ASSL conference in Nagoya, Japan

Rejected for a Newton Postdoctoral Fellowship to work at Imperial College London after my PhD

2014 – Failed at an attempt to transfer my doctoral studies to Imperial College London, due to lack of funding for non-UK students

2012 – Rejected from Princeton, UC-Berkeley, and UC-San Diego for graduate admission

2009 – Summer internship in research on internal combustion engines abruptly cancelled at the last moment

2007 – Rejected from UC-Berkeley for undergraduate admission

2006 – Passed over for a spot on the varsity basketball team (as a junior)

2005 – Passed over for the bass trombone in the jazz band, and I quit playing soon after