Universität Potsdam

Job Announcement

Young, modern, and research oriented... the University of Potsdam has firmly established itself within the scientific landscape since its founding in 1991. Nationally and internationally renowned scientists teach and perform research here at Brandenburg’s largest university. The University of Potsdam is successful in acquiring third-party funds, delivers outstanding performance in technology and knowledge transfer, and has a very service-oriented administration. With about 20,000 students studying at three campuses – Am Neuen Palais, Griebnitzsee and Golm – the University of Potsdam is a prominent economic factor and engine of development for the region. The University of Potsdam has a total of about 2,750 faculty and staff members and is located in one of Germany’s most scenic areas.

The University of Potsdam, Faculty of Science, Department of Molecular Biology is seeking to fill subject to funding commitment the following positions possibly by September 01st 2018.

Two PhD positions in Plant Synthetic Biology
with focus on genome editing
Requisition No.: 265/2018

The positions are for 20 hours of work per week (50 %). The salary is determined by the collective bargaining agreement for public employees in Germany (TV-L 13 Ost). Both positions are temporary and limited to a term of 2 years in accordance with Section 2 subsection 1 of the Academic Fixed-Term Contract Law (WissZeitVG).

The BMBF-funded ENTIRE (Enabling technologies for RNP-mediated genome editing) project aims at the development of novel strategies for the CRISPR/Cas-mediated editing of plant genomes through transgene-free ribonucleoprotein (RNP) delivery strategies. Special emphasis is put on the improvement of HDR (homology directed repair)-mediated knock-in events and on the development of an innovative high-throughput screening system for the identification of successfully edited cells.

The PhD projects are embedded in ongoing research of the Department of Molecular Biology. The projects will focus on the implementation of various strategies with the aim to improve HDR-mediated knock-in frequencies and the development of a FACS-based high-throughput screening platform, respectively.

Requirements
Applicants should hold a MSc or equivalent degree in plant biology, biochemistry, molecular biology, biotechnology or a similar field. We are seeking candidates with knowledge and experience in molecular biology to perform wet-lab experiments and data analysis.
Excellent communication skills in English are mandatory. Knowledge of the German language is not required. Prior experience with one or several of the following methods will be considered as an advantage:

- Plant protoplast preparation and transfection
- Protein purification
- FACS (fluorescence-activated cell sorting)
- CRISPR/Cas

Offer
The University of Potsdam hosts leading groups in the field of plant molecular biology. The Department of Molecular Biology (headed by Prof. Dr. Bernd Mueller-Roeber) focuses on plant transcription factors involved in abiotic stress responses, the control of plant development by environmental stress, and synthetic biology. The Department has a close collaboration with the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology located at the nearby Science Campus Golm.

Potsdam is an attractive historical city and its palaces are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Potsdam is located close to Berlin, a culturally vibrant city. Both cities have a high quality of life at modest living costs.

Under the laws of the federal state of Brandenburg, employees under this contract are permitted to dedicate at least 33% of their contract time for their scientific qualification. The University of Potsdam strives to maintain gender balance among its staff. Severely disabled applicants shall receive preference in case of equal qualifications. We expressly invite applications from people with migration backgrounds.

How to apply
Please send your application as a single PDF document including: (1) a statement of your motivation to apply for the job, (2) a full CV, (3) the names and e-mail addresses of at least two referees, (4) academic transcripts, (5) list of publications and oral presentations by 16.07.2018 to Dr. Lena Hochrein at hochrein@uni-potsdam.de.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact us or check the department and project websites: Department of Molecular Biology:
http://www.uni-potsdam.de/ibb-molecularbiology/research-overview.html

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