



The Department of Agrobiotechnology (IFA-Tulln), Center for Analytical Chemistry, Metabolomics group is currently seeking a

## Postgraduate Research Associate (Project employment)

Reference code: 26

Extent of employment: 40 Hours per Week  
Duration of employment: 36 months

Gross monthly salary and pay grade in terms of collective agreement for university staff (payable 14 times per year): B1, €2.731,00

The position is offered in the frame of the European project INTERFUTURE – From microbial interactions to new-concept biopesticides and biofertilizers, a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network (Link: [http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/207003\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/207003_en.html)).

### Responsibilities

- Project collaboration, it is expected that the candidate will carry out his/her PhD thesis and aims at defending a thesis to obtain the PhD degree at BOKU. The second half of the PhD project shall be carried out in form of a secondment at the project partner Bi-PA in Belgium.
- The company Bi-PA - Biological Products for Agriculture (Belgium <http://www.bi-pa.com/index.html>) acts as bridge between green research and sustainable farming with the final goal of develop and register innovative crop protection solutions for integrated pest management.
- There, the candidate will be trained in the evaluation of the effects of Lysobacter VOCs on crop plants, plant beneficial and pathogenic microorganisms and will be involved in the development of a novel biofungicide based on the most effective VOCs identified during the first part of the project.

### Required skills and qualifications

- Master degree in the field of Plant and Agricultural Sciences, Biology or Chemistry
- Be at the time of recruitment in the first four years of his/her research career (full-time equivalent research experience, starting from the date on which the Master degree was obtained)
- Not have been awarded a Doctoral degree
- Not have resided or carried out his/her main activity in Austria for more than 12 month in the last three years immediately prior to the reference recruitment date
- Be proficient in both written and spoken English otherwise s/he will be excluded from the recruitment process

### Desirable skills and qualifications

- Knowledge of German, French and/or Dutch self-certified in the pre-selection process, will be considered as an additional selection criterion
- Ability to work in an international team environment (social skills)

## Selection process – Criteria for the recruitment procedure

By qualifications (30 points) and interview (70 points). The results of the recruitment process will be based on the sum of points obtained from qualifications and interview. Application will be evaluated by all the involved supervisors. On the basis of the information contained in the CV and application documents or demonstrated by candidates, a score of max. 30 points will be awarded according to the criteria below. The best 3 applicants for the position, based on the highest scores obtained will be selected and admitted to the interview:

- ❖ Experience in addition to the minimum requirements (eligibility) on the project topic as researcher (e.g. internships, fellowships, stipends, grants), employee or stage in qualified labs/research organizations/universities (2 point per year of experience with a max. of 5 points)
- ❖ Relatedness of master theses (Title and abstract) to the project topic – (max. 15 points):
  - 15 points = perfect relation
  - 10 points = medium relation
  - 5 points = minimal relation
  - 0 point = no relation
- ❖ Number of publications with Impact Factor (IF) in the topic of applied microbiology, phytopathology or analytical chemistry (1 point per each paper with IF with a max. of 5 points)
- ❖ Number of scientific and technical publications related to the development of products for agriculture and biopesticides (0.5 point per each paper with IF with a max. of 5 points)

After this first round, successful candidates will be contacted for the interview.

During the interview that will held in English, the following knowledge will be verified (max. 70 points):

- ❖ The role played by microorganisms in plant biology and growth, procedures to isolate and identify microorganisms from plant tissues, microbial traits associated with control of plant diseases (min. score 20, max. 30)
- ❖ Organic and biochemistry skills which enable to understand the molecular mechanisms underlying plant-microbe interactions. Technical knowledge of analytical methods for VOC determination (min. score 20, max. 30)
- ❖ Knowledge of the activities and organization of BOKU / IFA-Tulln (min. score 2, max. 5)
- ❖ The candidate, should have the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) or equivalent knowledge, knowledge of Office package or similar (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), statistic software as R, SPSS or Statistica. Also in case of possession of the ECDL, the computer skills will be assessed during the interview (min. score 2, max. 5)

The candidate must obtain a minimum mark at the interview of 50 points.

**Applications can be submitted until: 31<sup>th</sup> of March 2017**

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna seeks to increase the number of its female faculty and staff members. Therefore qualified women are strongly encouraged to apply. In case of equal qualification, female candidates will be given preference unless reasons specific to an individual male candidate tilt the balance in his favour.

General information you will find at:

<http://www.fmach.it/Servizi-Generali/Lavora-con-noi/Opportunita-presso-altri-enti-o-aziende/6-Early-Stage-Researchers-ESRs-PhD-student-within-the-project-INTERFUTURE-From-microbial-interactions-to-new-concept-biopesticides-and-biofertilizers>

To apply for the position, please use the [application form](#) and email the following documents to: [kerstin.buchmueller@boku.ac.at](mailto:kerstin.buchmueller@boku.ac.at) (**Reference Code: 26**)

- **The curriculum vitae (CV)**, including contact details, education, work experience, technical and scientific publications, prizes/awards, language skills. The CV should reflect a representative array of achievements and qualifications appropriate to the applied post. The CV must be saved with file extension: **Surname Name\_CV.doc(x) or .pdf**.
- **Official academic record** of the courses & grades for Bachelor (and Master if required in specific criteria) degree.
- A **motivational letter** in which the applicant describes his or her motivation to pursue postgraduate studies and to conduct the offered research project. The applicant is asked to mention the ESR position she/he applies for on the motivation letter. In case of application the multiple positions, the applicant is asked to specify his or her interest in the projects selected.
- Contact details of **three referees** willing to write confidential letters of recommendation.
- Your application will be forwarded to the involved supervisor(s) for further evaluation.

In parallel, according to the ESR position you are applying for, you will also have to apply for admittance to a PhD at BOKU by [filling the online application form](#).

We regret that we cannot reimburse applicants travel and lodging expenses incurred as part of the selection and hiring process.

[www.boku.ac.at](http://www.boku.ac.at)