PhD Position in Microbiology

Job Description:

The Marie Skłodowska Curie Doctoral Network “DyeAnotherWay” is inviting applications for a 36 month full time fixed term position as a Doctoral Candidate (DC). This research project is a collaboration between 17 organisations, including 9 academic and 8 non-academic, from 11 countries (AT, BE, BR, DE, ES, FI, FR, PT, SE, UK, USA) across Europe and beyond. The research aims to investigate all aspects of biogenic dyes, from the identification of dye-producing bacteria and the characterization of their pigments, through the optimization of their production and application, to the comprehensive ecological and economic evaluation of the resulting solutions.

The successful applicant will be employed by University of Hamburg in Germany, with planned intersectoral and interdisciplinary stays with collaboration partners totalling a maximum of 11 months.

The research and PhD thesis will be on “Identification and characterization of dye producing bacteria”.

The DC will:

- select and isolate relevant strains
- taxonomically identify the strains
- carry out whole genome sequencing for selected strains
- analyse sequence data concerning safety and dye production characteristics
- confirm involvement of genes in biogenic dye formation by deletion mutagenesis
- characterize selected conditions concerning expression of enzymes involved in dye formation
- screen for other species producing the same dyes and rank them with respect to production efficiency and safety
- double-check the conformity of selected dye producing species with the Nagoya protocol

Beyond the specific expertise gained during the DC’s completion of their research work, this position offers an opportunity to gain international research experience, as well as an array of soft skills relevant to project management, research management and career development.

Candidates must:

- hold a University Master’s Degree in any discipline that makes them eligible for a PhD in Microbiology, such as a Master’s Degree in Microbiology, Food Chemistry, Food Science, Biotechnology, Biology, Molecular Life Sciences, or a closely related discipline.
- not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, study, etc) in Germany for more than 12 months in the three years immediately prior to 01.01.2026, unless as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention, but may be of any nationality
- be available to start on 01.01.2026
- have excellent English language skills

- be able to travel internationally on a regular basis, for example to attend regular project meetings or to take part in conferences
- be able to work in an international environment, be highly motivated and reliable, be able to work to strict deadlines

Preference will be given to candidates with experience in isolation of bacterial strains, cloning, and bioinformatics.

Research Fields:

Microbiology, molecular biology, cloning, bioinformatics

Career Stage:

According to EU HORIZON EUROPE guidelines, Doctoral Candidates must have fewer than four years research experience at the date of employment (1st January 2026) and must not have been awarded a doctoral degree.

Benefits:

Annual Salary: within the range of EU Marie Curie European Training Network programs, Monthly Mobility Supplement and Monthly Family Allowance (if eligible): according to the rules of EU Marie Currie European Training Network programs

How to Apply:

Please send a letter of motivation and your full CV, along with any supporting documents, as a single PDF to recruitment.dyeanotherway@tuwien.ac.at before 15th October 2025. Please include "DC1 Application" in the email reference line. Please include the clause "I consent to the processing of my personal data for the purposes of this recruitment process in accordance with the EU GDPR". CVs should follow the Europass template available for free download at: https://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/jobs/application-documents/europass_cv_template.doc.

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