

PhD student position in environmental biotechnology

Biorefinery Research Group (<http://www.bioref.put.poznan.pl/>) is looking for a PhD candidate, interested in applying microbiology, molecular biology and fermentation technology for investigation of methanotrophic microbial communities and development of novel environmentally-friendly processes to produce bio-materials.

The project "**Production of hydroxyalkanoate copolymers in gas fermentation of methane with mixed microbial consortia**" (PI: Mateusz Łężyk) will be financed by the National Science Centre (NCN, Poland) under 2019/35/D/ST8/03530 grant agreement.

The aim of the project is to determine the molecular mechanisms determining the composition and properties of PHA copolymers in mixed methanotrophic microbial communities and to investigate the molecular regulatory mechanisms of the process. A successful candidate will work on research problems described in the research grant.

For further information please check: <https://www.ncn.gov.pl/sites/default/files/listy-rankingowe/2019-09-16/streszczenia/466232-en.pdf>

Your tasks will be to:

1. Enrich microbes and screen for process-relevant microorganisms
2. Investigate the optimal process conditions in order to obtain the required microbial product
3. Ferment the gas substrates into relevant biopolymer products.
4. Prepare and analyze fermentation metabolites using modern chromatography approaches
5. Develop ideas and hypotheses put forward in the research project
6. Perform data analysis
7. Take part in scientific, dissemination and collaboration activities related to the project and the research group

It is expected that the candidate will have:

- M.Sc./M.Res. degree in biotechnology, microbiology, biochemistry or in a closely related subject,
- good collaboration and communication skills (very good command of English is a necessity),
- experience in delivering seminars and writing reports/articles,
- knowledge of basic techniques of microbial cultivation and concepts of microbial biotransformation,
- strong motivation for scientific work, an eye for details and be able to take on highly challenging tasks.

While PhD student will acquire expertise in selected topics during the time-course of the project, it will be considered an asset that:

- the candidate has a basic background in fermentation technology and microbial metabolism,
- the candidate possesses any experience in experimental biotech-related research.

We look very much forward to receiving your application if you:

- appreciate working on a high impact cross-disciplinary collaborative project with potential to solve a global environmental challenge,
- enjoy good collaborations, and the relaxed atmosphere in our group.

Part of the experimental work will be performed in collaboration with partners from Denmark. Therefore, the candidate will have to be able to travel abroad where he/she will work for three months or longer (year 2022).

We offer:

- PhD stipend ca. 5000 PLN (including social security contribution made by Doctoral School)/month
- The successful candidate will be enrolled to Doctoral School Poznan University of Technology (<https://phdschool.put.poznan.pl/en/>) in the environmental engineering, mining and energy discipline
- The project is going to be carried out in Water Supply and Bioeconomy Division at the Institute of Environmental Engineering and Building Installations, Faculty of Environmental Engineering and Energy, Poznan University of Technology (address: Berdychowo 4, 60-965 Poznan, PL)
- Funding guaranteed initially for 1 year, with possible extension for the duration of the project (in total 3 years)
- Participation in conferences, scientific training, support from peers, and academic mentoring

Additional info

- The project is expected to start 1st October 2020 or close to this time.
- Apply now (or ask any questions you may have) to: mateusz.lezyk@put.poznan.pl
- In the subject include "PHA project – PhD student position" and your first and last name
- Your application must be in English. Please submit applications as one PDF file containing all materials. The file must include:
 - A letter motivating the application (cover letter)
 - Curriculum vitae
 - Grade transcripts and scan of BSc/MSc diploma
 - List of publications if any
 - At least one letter of recommendation and contact to a former or current scientific supervisor.
- We will collect applications until 6th of July 2020. The PhD-student will be selected from candidates in the open competition, according to the procedure complying the rules for granting employment in research projects funded by the NCN.

- Selected candidates will be invited for the interview - the date will be communicated to the candidates individually in July 2020.
- The competition may be extended until a suitable candidate who fulfills all requirements is found.
- Candidates may apply prior to obtaining their master's degree but cannot begin before having received it.
- All interested candidates irrespective of age, gender, race, disability, religion or ethnic background are encouraged to apply.
- The application must contain the following statement to allow us to process your data: 'I consent to the processing of my personal data contained in the application documents by the Poznan University of Technology based in Poznań in order to carry out the current recruitment procedure.'

In accordance with Art. 13 of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) 2016/679 of 27 April 2016 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (hereinafter referred to as GDPR) we inform that:

1. The administrator of your personal data is Poznan University of Technology located at Pl. Marii Skłodowskiej-Curie 5, 60-965 Poznań, Poland, e-mail: biuro.rektora@put.poznan.pl, phone: 61 665 3639.
2. Contact details of the Data Protection Inspector - Piotr Otomański, e-mail: iod@put.poznan.pl.
3. Your personal data will be processed in order to carry out the recruitment process; the legal basis for the processing of your personal data is voluntarily and knowingly expressed by your consent according to art. 6 section 1 (b) GDPR.
4. Personal data will not be passed on to processing entities (art. 28 section 1 GDPR). They can be only transferred only to bodies authorized by law.
5. Personal data will be kept for the period of the recruitment process or until you withdraw your prior consent, but its withdrawal does not affect the legality of the processing which was carried out on the basis of consent before its withdrawal.
6. You have the right to access your personal data, the right to rectify them, the right to transfer them, and if applicable, also to remove them, to limit processing and the right to object to processing.
7. You have the right to lodge a complaint with the President of the Office for Personal Data Protection when you feel that the processing of your personal data violates the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation of 27 April 2016 (GDPR).
8. Providing your personal data is voluntary, however, the consequence of not providing personal data may lead to inability to consider your candidacy for a vacancy.
9. Your data will not be processed in an automated way, including profiling.