ACIB – the Austrian Centre of Industrial Biotechnology – is one of the leading research centres in the field of industrial biotechnology. ACIB is dedicated to joint research at the industrial-academic interface. Seven Austrian Universities and more than 50 leading industry partners are working together within the ACIB research programme.

SECRETERS – A new generation of microbial expression hosts and tools for the production of biotherapeutics and high-value enzymes – is a recently granted Marie Sklodowska Curie European Innovative Training Network. SECRETERS is implemented by a European Consortium of universities, research institutions and companies in the field of biotechnology.

acib GmbH offers in Vienna, Austria,

two PhD positions in the MSCA-ITN SECRETERS project
Starting date June/July, 2019

Project description

Microbial cells are important hosts for production of industrial enzymes and biopharmaceutical proteins. Within the SECRETERS consortium, acib will work on the yeast platform Pichia pastoris. We will design, test and validate a series of powerful new strains and processes that can be used to produce the challenging new-format biotherapeutics that are emerging. Particular emphasis will be placed on disulphide-bonded proteins, since the vast majority of biotherapeutics, as well as many industrial enzymes, fall into this category, and difficult-to-express proteins.

→ One PhD position (ESR10) is focussed on reconciling redox balance in recombinant protein producing P. pastoris strains and design of novel strains with altered oxidative protein folding;
→ The second PhD position (ESR11) will study the influence of fermentation conditions on organelle-specific redox potentials, oxidative stress and oxidation-related product heterogeneity in recombinant protein producing P. pastoris in bioreactor cultivations.

Research will take place in the working group “Microbial Biotechnology” at the Department of Biotechnology of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU).

For more details on the two PhD positions please visit: http://www.biotec.boku.ac.at/15653.html

Your benefits

→ Be part of a highly interacting interdisciplinary project team – structured secondments to other project partners are planned
→ Start to build up your scientific network – meet and exchange regularly with 14 other PhD students working in the joint project
→ Join an embedded and customized education programme – gain scientific/technical skills as well as transferable skills to complement your qualification

Your requirements

→ Master’s degree or equivalent in biotechnology, molecular biology, biochemistry, or similar study
→ Strong practical experience in molecular biology (for ESR10) and/or bioreactor cultivations (for ESR11) requested, and scientific interest in systems biology or bioinformatics applications desired.
→ Specific Eligibility Criteria valid at time of recruitment on the H2020 Marie Sklodowska Curie programme:
  ▪ The applicant has to be within the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree.
  ▪ Mobility rule: The applicants may not have resided or carried out main activity (studies, work, etc.) in Austria for more than 12 months in the 3 years prior to the recruitment date.
→ Excellent skills in spoken and written English, an organized approach with strong attention to detail and good communication skills with ability to work well in teams.
→ Travel abroad for training purposes is part of the training programme

Please submit the application comprising a detailed CV, letter of motivation, publication list, copies of your university degree documents, and contact details of up to 3 referees via our application portal application.acib.at For ESR10: (ref. 01_2019). For ESR11: (ref. 02_2019).

Application deadline: 1. March 2019

This job advertisement addresses qualified male and female persons equally. ACIB is not part of any collective agreement under Austrian law. It is intended to offer a minimum yearly gross payment of EUR 31,700.– for the PhD Position advertised. According to the ITN rules a Mobility and, if eligible, Family Allowance are scheduled in addition.