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Postdoctoral Position in Plant Synthetic Biology

The newly established Emmy Noether group led by Tobias Jores at the Institute of Synthetic Biology at the Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf is looking for a postdoctoral researcher (m/f/d, TV-L E13, 100%, 3 years) to design and characterize inducible transgene expression cassettes.

Project summary

The candidate will be part of an international research project funded by the DFG (Germany), BBSRC (UK), and NSF (US) that aims at engineering gene regulation in plants to yield predictable expression. In particular, the project focuses on characterizing jasmonic acid- or copper-inducible regulatory DNA motifs and combining these motifs to create tunable and programmable regulatory elements. The candidate will use cutting-edge technologies including Plant STARR-seq, a high-throughput assay to study the activity of plant *cis*-regulatory elements, and computational modelling to systematically build and study inducible regulatory elements. The candidate's work will further our understanding of plant gene regulation and generate well-characterized expression cassettes for plant biotechnology applications.

Who we are looking for:

We are looking for a candidate with a deep and broad interest in plant biology, a high level of motivation, dedication to experiments, openness to learn and develop new techniques and a collaborative mindset. A PhD degree in molecular or cell biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, or related fields is a prerequisite. Experience with high-throughput assays, next-generation sequencing, gene regulation, or plant biology is of advantage.

What we offer:

We offer a fully funded (TV-L E13, 100%) position for 3 years and the opportunity to work on an exciting and intellectually challenging project at the forefront of plant gene regulation research and plant synthetic biology. The preferred starting date is May 01, 2025. Our young and enthusiastic group is hosted at the Institute of Synthetic Biology in an international environment. The candidate will be integrated into a joint curriculum within the host institute and participate in seminars. As part of a collaborative project, the candidate will participate in regular exchanges with the research groups of Dr. Nicola Patron (University of Cambridge) and Dr. Christine Queitsch (University of Washington).

The Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf aims at increasing the percentage of employed women and therefore explicitly encourages women to apply. Equally qualified applicants with disabilities will be given preference. Please send your application including CV, motivation letter, and the contact details of two references as a single document to Tobias Jores (PlantGeneReg@hhu.de).