

Scientific Officer – Biophysical Characterization

Location: Heidelberg, Germany
Staff Category: Staff Member
Contract Duration: 3 years (renewable)
Grading: 5 or 6; depending on experience and qualifications
Closing Date: 1 May 2020
Reference Number: HD01727

The main goal of the Protein Expression and Purification Core Facility is to provide high-level support to the EMBL research community regarding a broad scope of experiments related to advanced protein expression, purification and biophysical characterization.

Your role

As Scientific Officer – Biophysical Characterization, you will support users of the EMBL research community in the design, execution and data analysis of biophysical and biochemical experiments aimed at the characterization of proteins, multi-subunit protein and protein – nucleic acid complexes and the interactions between proteins and other types of molecules. Depending on the individual needs, the experiments will be either performed by yourself or the users will be trained to operate the equipment independently and perform their own experiments. The facility currently covers a broad range of biophysical techniques including calorimetry, circular dichroism, fluorescence and UV-VIS spectroscopy, microscale thermophoresis, nano-DSF, dynamic light scattering, SEC-MALS and surface plasmon resonance.

You will maintain state-of-the-art biophysical instrumentation, but also evaluate and introduce new technologies and instruments when necessary. You will also closely collaborate with the other staff members of the facility and assist them with protein quality control using biophysical techniques. Furthermore, you will be encouraged to take independent scientific initiatives as well. You will also build a network within and outside the institute to share and disseminate expertise, know-how and guidance in biophysical sample characterization.

You have

As our ideal candidate, you should hold a PhD in life sciences and be able to demonstrate their expertise in the fields of biophysics and biochemistry. An in-depth understanding of the biophysical techniques used to characterize and quantify the physical properties of biomolecules is indispensable. Furthermore, hands-on experience with the relevant biophysical methods, assay development and data analysis is required. You should also be willing to expand their skill set when needed. Project management experience, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, teamwork and enthusiasm for working in an ambitious, multicultural, scientific environment are expected. Fluency in English is required.

You might also have

Experience with biophysical method development and mathematical modelling would be considered a plus.

Why join us

EMBL is an inclusive, equal opportunity employer offering attractive conditions and benefits appropriate to an international research organisation with a very collegial and family friendly working environment. The remuneration package comprises a competitive salary, a comprehensive pension scheme, medical, educational and other social benefits, as well as financial support for relocation and installation, including your family and the availability of an excellent child care facility on campus.

What else you need to know

We are Europe's flagship research laboratory for the life sciences – an intergovernmental organisation performing scientific research in disciplines including molecular biology, physics, chemistry and computer science. We are an international, innovative and interdisciplinary laboratory with more than 1700 employees from many nations, operating across six sites, in Heidelberg (HQ), Barcelona, Hinxton near Cambridge, Hamburg, Grenoble and Rome. Our mission is to offer vital services in training scientists, students and visitors at all levels; to develop new instruments and methods in the life sciences and actively engage in technology transfer activities, and to integrate European life science research.

Please note that appointments on fixed term contracts can be renewed, depending on circumstances at the time of the review.

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