

## PhD Student in Plant Molecular Biology

Department of Plant Cell and Molecular Biology, Institute of Biology, Faculty of Life Sciences, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

**Salary scale:** employment, 65% E 13 TV-L HU (third party funding, short-term for 36 months).

**Job description:** Research project (PhD thesis) in the framework of a DFG funded project “**Organ-specific binding site selection and transcriptional regulation by floral homeotic transcription factors**” on the analysis of the molecular mechanisms and specificity of gene regulation in flower organ development. Tasks for your own scientific qualification (PhD).

**Project description:** Unraveling how transcription factors interact with specific DNA sequences is crucial to understand how they control gene expression and ultimately how they exert their biological functions. In plants, MADS-domain transcription factors are prominent master regulators of flower development, acting as so-called homeotic regulators. In this project, we will functionally characterize complex-specific DNA binding sites of these homeotic regulators in the chromatin context using a combination of genome-wide approaches, targeted mutagenesis (CRISPR/Cas9) and other biochemical methods. This project offers a conceptual foundation for determining the genomic basis of developmental programming of plant stem cells, using flower development as a model system.

**Requirements:** Academic university degree (master or equivalent) in biology, biochemistry, biotechnology or related discipline with a focus on molecular biology, genetics or developmental biology; above-average marks; strong interest in gene regulation and plant development processes; experience in CRISPR-Cas9 methodology is a plus; good English knowledge.

**Offer:** The research will be conducted under supervision of Dr. Cezary Smaczniak in the Department of Plant Cell and Molecular Biology headed by Prof. Kerstin Kaufmann at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (for more information visit our website: <https://www2.hu-berlin.de/biologie/flower/index.php>). The department is located in the heart of Berlin within a new building “Rhoda-Erdmann-Haus” dedicated to Life Sciences. We provide lab and office space as well as access to modern scientific equipment. Within the HU, you will have access to e.g. sport facilities, language center and the family support center.

**How to apply:** Applications (including motivation letter, CV, contact data of two referees, copies of degree certificates/transcripts of records) should be sent within 6 weeks and quoting the reference number **DR/120/18** to: Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Lebenswissenschaftliche Fakultät, Institut für Biologie, Dr. Cezary Smaczniak, Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin, or, **preferably**, as a single pdf file via email to [cezary.smaczniak@hu-berlin.de](mailto:cezary.smaczniak@hu-berlin.de). Applications from candidates who are about to graduate are also welcome. The application deadline is **October 16, 2018**.

HU is seeking to increase the proportion of women in research and teaching, and specifically encourages qualified female scholars to apply. Severely disabled applicants with equivalent qualifications will be given preferential consideration. People with an immigration background are specifically encouraged to apply. Since we will not return your documents, please only submit copies in the application.

Please visit our website [www.hu-berlin.de/stellenangebote](http://www.hu-berlin.de/stellenangebote), which gives you access to the legally binding German version.

Cezary Smaczniak

Berlin, 04.09.2018