

Scientific Officer - Biophysical Characterization Protein Expression and Purification Core Facility



Location: Heidelberg, Germany
Staff Category: Staff Member
Contract Duration: 3 years
Grading: 5 or 6, depending on experience and qualifications
Closing Date: 11 September 2016
Reference Number: HD_00922

Job Description

The European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) is one of the highest ranked scientific research organisations in the world. The Headquarters Laboratory is located in Heidelberg (Germany), with additional sites in Grenoble (France), Hamburg (Germany), Hinxton (UK) and Monterotondo (Italy). The Protein Expression and Purification Core Facility at EMBL Heidelberg provides support to the EMBL research community in advanced protein expression, purification and biophysical characterization.

The Scientific Officer – Biophysical Characterization will advise and support researchers in the design, execution and data analysis of various types of biophysical experiments. Depending on the individual needs, the experiments can be performed for the users or the users can be trained to operate the equipment independently. She/he will use cutting-edge technologies to measure interactions and to precisely determine the stability, shape and size of different biomolecules and biomolecular assemblies. He/she will identify the most suitable biophysical techniques to answer the biological questions the researchers are trying to tackle and also contribute to further development or adaptation of the existing methods and instrumentation when necessary.

The facility currently covers a broad range of biophysical techniques, including calorimetry, circular dichroism, fluorescence, microscale thermophoresis, dynamic/static light scattering, surface plasmon resonance and analytical ultracentrifugation. However, the Scientific Officer – Biophysical Characterization will also be expected to scout for novel developing technologies and evaluate and introduce them into the institute. The facility assists users of various scientific backgrounds, such as for example systems and structural biologists and modelers. She/he is expected to build a network within and outside the institute to share and disseminate expertise, know-how and guidance in biophysical sample characterization. Furthermore, he/she will closely collaborate with the other staff members of the facility and assist them with protein quality control.

Qualifications and Experience

Candidates should hold a PhD in life sciences with a very strong background in biophysics and/or physical chemistry. 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. The candidates should also be willing to expand their skill set when needed. Experience with biophysical method development and mathematical modelling would be considered a plus. 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.

Application Instructions

Please apply online through www.embl.org/jobs

Additional Information

EMBL is an inclusive, equal opportunity employer offering attractive conditions and benefits appropriate to an international research organisation.

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