PROFESSORSHIP (OPEN RANK) IN PLANT SCIENCE

The Faculty of Science and Medicine of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, announces the opening of an open rank position of Professor in Plant Science (teaching domain Plant and Microbial Sciences) in the Department of Biology.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

We seek a colleague with an outstanding scientific track record in molecular and/or cellular aspects of plant health, development, physiology, or interaction with other organisms. Potential areas of interest include, but are not limited to, plant disease, crop evolution, pest control, stress resistance, and food security. The candidate is expected to use modern approaches such as state-of-the-art genetics, high-throughput -omics, and/or bioinformatics. Qualified applicants must have a clear research and teaching vision and proven teaching and communication skills. This position includes teaching at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels; it requires fluency in English and the willingness to acquire French and/or German. The candidate is expected to contribute to the future master program in “Environmental Biology – From Genes to Ecosystems” and/or to the existing master program in “Bioinformatics and Computational Biology”. The successful candidate will develop an internationally recognized competitive research programme sustained by external funding. The position may be filled at the level of Assistant Professor (tenure track) or Full Professor (tenured). The University of Fribourg is an equal opportunity employer and strives to increase the number of women in the faculty - applications from qualified female scientists are therefore particularly encouraged.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Hard copies of the following documents should be forwarded to the mailing address below:

1. a cover / motivation letter mentioning the position for which the candidate is applying (Professor of Plant Science)
2. a complete curriculum vitae, including a copy of the diploma of the highest degree
3. a full publication list (highlighting specifically the 5 most important contributions)
4. a record of past and present funding
5. a 2-page statement of future research plans
6. a statement and record of teaching experience and interests
7. the names and full contact details of three persons who can be contacted as referees

Deadline: the applications have to reach the Dean’s office before 31 Mai 2020.

Prof. Gregor Rainer
Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Medicine
University of Fribourg
Chemin du Musée 8
CH-1700 FRIBOURG / Switzerland

Please also send an electronic version of the application ("name.pdf") and PDF versions of the 5 most relevant publications ("name-papers.pdf") to the Faculty Administrator at the Dean’s Office (franziska.schumacher@unifr.ch).
ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

The Department of Biology (https://www3.unifr.ch/bio/en/) is organized into 5 teaching domains that represent the full breadth of biology: Biochemistry, Bioinformatics and Computation Biology, Ecology & Evolution, Neurobiology and Developmental Biology, and Plant and Microbial Sciences. It has a very flat hierarchy and aims to fairly share the resources among individual research groups. The Department currently consists of 28 research groups, 13 of which are headed by permanent (or tenure-track) professors; 4 by ERC or SNSF-funded professors, SNSF PRIMA and SNSF Ambizione fellows; 7 by permanent group leaders; and 3 by non-permanent group leaders. Many research groups are arranged around common research platforms (core facilities) that play a vital role in the continuous attraction of third-party funded projects and SNSF-financed professors and research fellows and ERC grantees. The Department of Biology has state-of-the-art facilities including a Metabolomics and Proteomics platform, a Bioinformatics / Statistics platform as well as an Imaging / Microscopy platform, the latter two being shared with the Section of Medicine. In addition, the Department of Biology and the Section of Medicine share an animal facility coordinated by the Dean’s Office. Our close vicinity to the Universities of Bern, Neuchâtel and Lausanne also offer significant collaborative synergy in terms of both research and teaching.

Study programmes

The Department of Biology offers two bachelor programs (Biochemistry and Biology) and two master programs (Biology with four thematic options and Bioinformatics and Computational Biology). A revision of the master curricula is scheduled for Fall 2021. From Fall 2021, there will be three master programs: Environmental Biology - from Genes to Ecosystems, Molecular Life and Health Science, and Bioinformatics and Computational Biology. The study plan of the BSc in biology allows 2 options called Biology I and Biology II. Both options share the same core program in the first year. Starting with the 3rd semester the students follow the curriculum of the chosen option (https://www3.unifr.ch/bio/en/studies/bachelor/bsc-in-biology/): Biology I: Ecology, Evolution and Plant Biology; and Biology II: Molecular Biology, Neurobiology and Developmental Biology. The Biology Master is divided into 4 options that reflect the major research activities of the respective teaching domains (see also: https://www3.unifr.ch/bio/en/studies/master/msc-in-biology/): Biochemistry; Animal Molecular Lifesciences; Ecology and Evolution; Plant and Microbial Sciences. For the Master programme in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, offered together with the University of Bern, see https://www3.unifr.ch/bio/en/studies/master/msc-in-bioinformatics/.

Research

Research at the Department of Biology is divided into five main research areas (Biochemistry, Bioinformatics and Computation Biology, Ecology & Evolution, Neurobiology and Developmental Biology, and Plant and Microbial Sciences). For details on the research activities in the Department see https://www3.unifr.ch/bio/en/research/; for details on the research in the Plant and Microbial Sciences domain see here: https://www3.unifr.ch/bio/en/research/plant-and-microbial-biology/. In brief, research in the plant and microbial sciences domain is mainly focused on plant-microbe interactions and on plant development, including cellular transport processes, root development, plant immunity, plant symbioses, the impact of the plant microbiome on plant health, and volatile signalling in microbe-microbe interactions.

Languages

The University of Fribourg is bilingual. Teaching to biology students at the Bachelor level is given either in French or in German; teaching at the Master and PhD level is given in English. Undergraduate students are expected to understand both French and German, but can take their exams in either language. Candidates are expected to have a working knowledge of all three languages or be willing to acquire such knowledge within a few years.
INFRASTRUCTURE, POSITIONS AND FUNDING

Infrastructure
The candidate will receive laboratory workspace (for 5-10 researchers; additional lab space is negotiable). The candidate will have access to state-of-the-art shared infrastructure at the Department, which is maintained by a technical support group. As a member of the Plant and Microbial Sciences domain, the candidate will have access to climate chambers and shared greenhouses. The Department also hosts a state-of-the-art Imaging Facility, a Metabolomics & Proteomics Platform, and a Bioinformatics Platform (https://www3.unifr.ch/bio/en/services/facilities). The Department also collaborates closely with the Interfaculty Bioinformatics Unit (https://www.bioinformatics.unibe.ch/) and the Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) Platform at the University of Bern (https://www.ngs.unibe.ch/).

The University’s computer service supplies all Departmental members (academic and technical staff) with state-of-the-art PCs or Macs and appropriate word processing, reference, statistical and graphics software. Specific research software can also be supported for research purposes.

Personnel and financial resources
The new Professor will receive the following dotation:

- a 100% postdoc position
- a 50% lab technician position
- shared support by administrative assistants
- an installation (start-up) credit for research activities amounting to CHF 100,000
- an annual share of the department's operating budget (for consumables and equipment), calculated according to standard procedures of the Department of Biology
- Computational resources will be at the new professor’s disposal
- Potentially more resources might be negotiable

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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