

The Ma lab at the Gregor Mendel Institute of Molecular Plant Biology will harness the power of gall-inducing insects, nature's own plant manipulators, to explore the intricate interplay between plant development and defense signaling. We are looking for a:

Lab Manager / Research Assistant

About the lab

Galling insects hijack existing plant developmental pathways to induce diverse and complex galls. Our group will establish a novel gall model between the model plant *Arabidopsis thaliana* and Swede Midge. We will integrate a range of disciplines — genetics, transcriptomics, molecular biology, biochemistry and advanced imaging — to uncover the genetic & signalling determinants of gall formation and characterise key hormonal and receptor signalling during gall formation from single cell to whole organ level. See [more](#).

About the position

Our lab manager will oversee and ensure a smooth running of the entire lab, cultivating a well-organised and positive lab environment. The main responsibilities include scheduling/organising lab tasks, ordering supplies, maintaining inventory, and ensuring compliance with regulatory standards; introduce lab standards & best practice to new members, exemplify good record keeping in lab notebooks, maintain an organised record of lab materials and protocols for easy sharing. The RA role is similar on the organising side, but with stronger focus on conducting and supporting scientific investigations. Both roles will be actively involved in scientific projects, working independently or collaborating with lab members. This may involve collecting data, preparing samples, recording, analysing and interpreting data.

Candidates

We are looking for someone who has excellent attention to detail, is approachable & adaptable and is a good communicator & problem solver. Candidates should have strong technical skills and can follow new complex protocols. Molecular skills such as cloning, plant transformation, qPCR, Westerns, are desired. You should have an MSc or above or equivalent relevant working experience. Fluent in English (written & oral) is a necessity, German an advantage. We offer training to widen your technical skillset and support your growth in both project management and leadership. With your interest in our long-term project progression, you will influence the growth of our research group and take pride in the prospect of evolving with a new team.

Contact

Send your CV and a brief motivation letter to Yan Ma (yan.ma@unil.ch). In your letter, share your vision for a well-organised and positive lab environment and how you plan to contribute to its creation. Part-time applicants are welcome. Start date: 1 Feb 2024. The first selection round will start on 18 September and will continue until positions are filled.

About the Gregor Mendel Institute

The Gregor Mendel Institute is an international research institute founded by the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Its main goal is to promote excellent curiosity driven research within the field of plant molecular biology. The Gregor Mendel Institute is located at the Vienna BioCenter, one of Europe's hotspots for Life Sciences. www.oeaw.ac.at/gmi/home