

NATIONAL
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PhD studentship in molecular and structural biology

Targeting a unique mRNA decapping enzyme for trypanosomatid infectious disease drug discovery, chemical biology and biotechnology applications

We are looking for a **PhD student** to join the project team of **Dr Maria Górna** at the University of Warsaw. The student will work in an international team that includes the laboratories of Susanne Kramer at Würzburg University and Martin Zoltner at the Biocev in Prague. The joined project aims to characterise a highly unusual mRNA decapping enzyme of *Trypanosoma brucei* (sleeping sickness) as a target for trypanocidal drug discovery. This is an opportunity to learn the exciting technique of electron cryomicroscopy which is revolutionizing structural biology. The project is funded by the trilateral WEAVE-UNISONO grant (National Science Centre, Poland). For the latest example of our work, see: Kramer S *et al.* (2023) *A unique mRNA decapping complex in trypanosomes*. **Nucleic Acids Research** 51(14):7520-7540.

We are looking for an outstanding young researcher who should have:

- A **Master's degree** in molecular biology or a related field (awarded by September 2024)
- Good knowledge and experience with basic molecular biology techniques
- Good organisation skills
- Good spoken and written English (at least B2 level)
- Experience with protein expression, RNase-free work and structural biology would be an advantage

The scope of work will include: cloning, protein expression in bacterial systems, protein purification, characterisation of the enzymatic activity, and protein structural analysis.

The position will be available from **October 2024** for 48 months. The selected candidate is expected to apply to the Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences, and assuming successful admission will receive studentship from the grant of 5000 PLN over the first 36 months. For more information see also <https://gorna.uw.edu.pl/en/jobs>

The application should be sent to: recruit.gorna@gmail.com by 18th April 2024 with a reference in the topic WEAVE-PhD. The most promising candidates will be invited for an interview. The candidates should provide the following information with the application:

- **Motivation letter**,
- **2 Letters of recommendation** (preferably; including one from the thesis supervisor) or 2 referee contact details
- **CV** including: grade average from the studies, awards, studentships, major conference presentations, internships, publications, and any other relevant information.
- **Clause of consent** ("I agree to the processing of personal data provided in my application (CV, cover letter, and other submitted documents) by the University of Warsaw for realising my recruitment process."); Please sign and date the consent) – see e.g. <http://www.chem.uw.edu.pl/oferty-pracy>