



PhD position on plant-virus interactions at MPIMP Potsdam

The “**Stem cell and germline antiviral immunity**” laboratory, led by Marco Incarbone at the **Max Planck Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology (MPIMP)** in Potsdam, Germany, is searching for a motivated and curious PhD student. About the lab: <https://www.mpimp-golm.mpg.de/2756212/plant-germline-antiviral-immunity>

What do we do? The lab’s main interest is to understand the **potent antiviral defenses deployed by plant stem cells and germline**. These immune mechanisms allow plants to maintain key regenerating and reproductive tissues free of pathogenic viruses, ultimately preventing transgenerational propagation of disease. Characterizing these defenses is of great importance in terms of fundamental virology and plant biology, but also of crop disease protection. More information on the topic here: <https://doi.org/10.1093/plcell/koab140>. The aim of the PhD project is to investigate how stem cells re-wire their gene expression upon infection with different viruses, to identify novel antiviral molecular pathways that maintain these cells virus-free. Find our latest research article here: <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2302069120>

Who are we looking for? We seek an individual that is **motivated and passionate about life sciences, has a Master’s degree in molecular biology or biotechnology (or will soon obtain one), and has laboratory experience**. Previous wet-lab experience in virology and/or plant biology, as well as knowledge or interest in bioinformatics, are assets. Fluent spoken and written English is required. We welcome applications of individuals from all backgrounds. The starting period is flexible, spring/summer 2025.

What do we offer? The MPIMP is a vibrant, highly international and interdisciplinary environment, offering state-of-the-art facilities and hosting leading scientists in a wide range of research fields and technologies. It is located near the beautiful city of Potsdam and within commuting distance from Berlin. The PhD contract is of a 3-year duration, is funded by German Research Foundation (DFG) and paid according to German public service pay scale.

Applications should be submitted to marco.incarbone@mpimp-golm.mpg.de and contain in a single PDF:

- **Curriculum Vitae (with lab experience and, if applicable, list of publications)**
- **Motivation letter stating why you want to join our group**
- **Names of two academic referees**

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. If you have questions, feel free to contact Marco Incarbone at the email address above.



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
OF MOLECULAR PLANT PHYSIOLOGY