The Leibniz-Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops (IGZ) aims for excellence in horticultural research and related plant, environmental and social sciences. IGZ is based in Großbeeren close to Berlin and is a member of the Leibniz Association (WGL). IGZ conducts strategic and international research for the sustainable production and use of vegetables, contributing to food security, human well-being and the conservation of natural resources. At IGZ, researchers from different disciplines work together on core-funded and grant-funded projects, in collaboration with national and international research partners.

Our group is interested to unravel the molecular mechanisms of plant-pathogen interactions. This knowledge will help us to devise strategies for the development of horticultural production systems with less environmental impact.

In a project funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) on the subject “Functional analysis of bacterial type-III effectors in plants” we are looking for an enthusiastic and ambitious PhD student in Plant-Pathogen Interactions

Reference number: 10/2019/1

Employment will be initially for three years.

The salary will be based on qualification and research experience according to the wage agreement TV-L, salary domain east, up to EG 13 (65% of the regular working time).

The current PhD project aims at the characterization of novel effector targets in plants and the elucidation of their roles in plant defence responses.

Tasks include

- Generation of DNA constructs for protein expression in plants, yeast and bacteria
- Infection of plants with bacteria
- Identification and characterization of protein-protein interactions using the yeast two-hybrid system and bimolecular fluorescence complementation
- Characterization of induced defense responses in plants using molecular, cell biology and modern genomics approaches

We are looking for candidates with

- a MSc degree or diploma in biology or related field with a strong emphasis on molecular and cellular biology
- a firm background in the field of plant-pathogen interactions
- good proficiency in English (both oral and written)

We offer

- an inspiring and dynamic research environment, including state-of-the art research facilities
- extensive supervision and an exciting project of considerable fundamental and applied relevance
- a place of employment located close to the city of Berlin

Please send a strong motivation letter stating why this is an interesting topic for you and why you have the right attitude and expertise to make progress in this field. Also send your CV, names of two references and indicate your earliest possible starting date.


The IGZ is an equal opportunity employer. Handicapped people with equal qualifications will be employed preferentially. The IGZ wishes our staff to reflect the diversity of society and thus welcomes applications from all qualified candidates regardless of age, gender, race, religion or ethnic background.

Please send your application citing the reference number to: Personalebüro, Institute for Vegetable and Ornamental Crops, Theodor-Echtermeyer-Weg 1, D-14979 Großbeeren or online in pdf-format to personal@igzev.de. The selection process starts immediately and continues until the position is filled.