

PhD candidate (f/m)

Plant molecular and cellular biology

The Kessler lab (University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland) invites applications for a PhD student position on the “**Role of Plastoglobule Proteins in Photosynthesis and Tomato Fruit Development**”. The project seeks to investigate new pathways involved in photosynthesis regulation by linking plant chloroplast physiology, metabolism and biochemistry. We offer an exciting research position in a highly timely topic connected to fruit traits and photosynthesis improvement.

Job Specification

The project aims at elucidating how the plastoglobule proteins, contribute to photosynthetic regulation and prenyl lipid metabolism. plastoglobules, that are lipid droplets attached to thylakoid membrane and involved in chloroplast lipid metabolism and photosynthetic regulation. The work will include biochemistry, genetics, molecular biology, cell biology, and metabolomics approaches. The student will be using both *Arabidopsis thaliana* and *Solanum lycopersicum* as model plants. Interpretations of results as well as writing of scientific publications also belong to the tasks. The position includes contribution to the Institute’s teaching activities in particular practical sessions at the Bachelor and Master levels.

The project will be carried out in the laboratory of Plant Physiology in Neuchâtel (<http://www2.unine.ch/physiologievegetale/LPV>) and with collaborating groups in Switzerland, Europe and overseas, under the direction of Prof. Felix Kessler. The student will have the opportunity to enroll in the Interuniversity Doctoral Program in Organismal Biology (<http://www2.unine.ch/dp-biol/welcome/introduction>).

Candidate Profile

The candidate is a highly motivated student holding a Master Degree in Biology or Biotechnology (or equivalent degree), with a good theoretical and practical background in cellular and molecular biology. Previous experience in Plant Biology is not a prerequisite. The ideal candidate is proactive, has good communication and team skills, but also works independently. Good skills in the spoken and written English language are expected, spoken and written French are a plus but not required.

Starting date: By agreement, ideally in April 2018

Applications

Applications (including CV, cover letter, and name - address of at least two referees) should be sent as a single PDF file to: felix.kessler@unine.ch . Review of applications will begin immediately and applications will be accepted until the position is filled.
