UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE

Academic Expert (f/m/x) in Data Management

Cluster of Excellence on Plant Sciences (CEPLAS)

We are one of the largest and oldest universities in Europe and one of the most important employers in our region. Our broad range of subjects, the dynamic development of our main research areas and our central location in Cologne make us attractive for students and researchers from around the world. We offer a wide range of career opportunities in science, technology, and administration.

CEPLAS (the joint Excellence Cluster localised in Cologne, Dusseldorf and Jülich) conducts fundamental research on complex plant traits of agronomic relevance that impact on yield and adaptation to limited resources. This knowledge underpins novel strategies for designing and breeding plants that react in a predictable way to future challenges (SMART plants).

A significant part of CEPLAS research is founded on the extraction of new knowledge from large-scale datasets (e.g. proteomics or sequencing). This entails a close interaction between theoretical groups and experimentalists, from experimental design to data analysis and planning of new experiments.

YOUR TASKS

» The academic expert (f/m/x) will be responsible for the implementation of common principles for the design and analysis of large-scale experiments, implementing solutions for storage and organization of the data to make it identifiable and searchable (FAIR – Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable – principles of data stewardship), and support standard data analysis. For this, they will collaborate closely with the NFDI for plant science DataPLANT to align the data management strategies. They will also communicate regularly with the university's IT support (RRZK) to act as an interface between the researchers and the infrastructure units to ensure efficient solutions.
» The academic expert (f/m/x) will work in an existing team to organize experiment-specific workshops, ensure the most efficient use of resources and consistent implementation of FAIR principles, to communicate the results to the CEPLAS community, and to implement the developed data storage and management strategies. In addition, they should contribute to teaching within the Graduate School and the CEPLAS Quantitative Biology Bachelor program.

YOUR PROFILE

» A PhD degree in informatics, bioinformatics, biology or a related discipline
» Experience with large (biological) data sets
» Experience in FAIR data management
» Excellent communication skills and experience in inter-disciplinary communication
» Good programming skills
» Preferably knowledge of key bioinformatics pipelines
» Preferably experience in database design and management

» Preferably experience with ontologies and semantic modeling
» Preferably basic systems administration skills
» High degree of self-initiative and individual responsibility
» Fluency in English, both orally and in writing

WE OFFER

» A diverse working environment with equal opportunities
» Support in balancing work and family life
» Extensive advanced training opportunities
» Occupational health management offers
» Flexible working time models
» Opportunity to work remotely

The University of Cologne is committed to equal opportunities and diversity. Women are especially encouraged to apply and will be considered preferentially in accordance with the Equal Opportunities Act of North Rhine-Westphalia (Landesgleich-stellungsgesetz – LGG NRW). We also expressly welcome applications from people with disabilities/special needs or of equal status.

The position is available from 1 April 2024 on a full-time basis (39,83 hours per week). It is limited until 31.12.2025 with a possibility of extension. If the applicant meets the relevant wage requirements and personal qualifications, they will be renumerated up to 14 TVL of the pay scale for the German public sector.

Please apply online (including cover letter, curriculum vitae, and short (max. 1 DIN A4 page) concept for (i) implementing FAIR principles, (ii) experimental design workshops and (iii) support structure for data analysis) with proof of the required qualifications without a photo under: https://jobportal.uni-koeln.de. The reference number is Wiss2401-17. The application deadline is 15.02.2024.

Further enquiries can be directed to Prof Dr Bart Thomma (bthomma@uni-koeln.de) and Prof Dr Björn Usadel (usadel@hhu.de).