

# Postdoc in Archaea Microbiology

The Section of Microbiology, Department of Biology, Aarhus University, is seeking a highly motivated postdoctoral researcher to join the Rodrigues-Oliveira group to investigate the ecology and biochemistry of Asgard archaea and their role in the emergence of complex life. This ERC-funded position offers the opportunity to pursue cutting-edge research in a collaborative international environment. The position is full-time, starting 1 June 2026 (or as soon as possible thereafter), and is initially for two years. As part of the recruitment process, a shortlisting procedure will be applied.

## Expected start date and duration of employment

This is a 2-year position from 01/06/2026 or as soon as possible.

## Job description

This project focuses on the Asgard archaea, which represent the closest prokaryotic relatives of eukaryotes. Yet, due to the scarcity of cultured representatives, functional insights into their biology remain limited and are mostly inferred from genome data. In this context, you will be working on bridging this gap by investigating the biochemical properties of Asgard archaea proteins crucial to the understanding of their ecology and evolution. You will perform:

- heterologous expression in model organisms
- protein purification
- biochemical functional characterizations
- *in vivo* assays in genetically tractable archaea

## Your profile

We are searching for a highly motivated candidate who has:

- A PhD in microbiology, molecular biology, biochemistry or related field
- Proven research experience in microbiology and molecular biology, especially cloning, heterologous expression, protein purification and biochemistry. Experience in anaerobic cultivation is an asset, but not essential.
- A background in microbial metabolism and biochemistry is desirable
- Demonstrated teamwork and interpersonal skills, with a commitment to collaborative research.
- Documented experience in scientific writing and publication in international peer-reviewed scientific journals
- The capacity to prepare and present his/her/their research at scientific conferences.
- Excellent English skills, both written and oral

## Who we are

You will be part of the Section for Microbiology. To find out more about who we are check the following page: <https://bio.au.dk/en/about-biology/sections/microbiology>

## What we offer

- A collaborative and international research environment with high standards and strong teamwork.
- An inclusive and respectful culture based on trust, kindness, and open dialogue.
- Flexible working conditions that support balance and individual needs.
- Commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in hiring, development, and daily work.
- An innovative and meaningful workplace where creativity is valued
- Support for international staff and families, including relocation services and an Expat Partner Programme.

Internationally competitive salary and benefits in line with Danish national laws.

**Application Deadline:**  
16 March 2026

**Institute/Faculty:**  
Department of Biology

**Faculty:**  
Faculty of Natural Sciences

**Academic contact person:**  
Thiago Rodrigues De Oliveira  
Adjunkt  
[thiago.rodrigues@bio.au.dk](mailto:thiago.rodrigues@bio.au.dk)  
u.dk

**Vacant positions:**  
1

**Number of months:**  
24

**Hours per week:**  
37

**Expected date of accession:**  
01/06/2026

### **Place of work and area of employment**

The place of work will be the Department of Biology, Ny Munkegade 114-116, DK-8000 Aarhus C, Denmark.

### **Contact information**

For further information, please contact: Asst. Prof. Thiago Rodrigues de Oliveira, thiago.rodrigues@bio.au.dk

### **Deadline**

Applications must be received no later than 16/03/2026.

### **Application procedure**

Shortlisting is used. This means that after the deadline for applications – and with the assistance from the assessment committee chairman, and the appointment committee if necessary, – the head of department selects the candidates to be evaluated. All applicants will be notified whether or not their applications have been sent to an expert assessment committee for evaluation. The selected applicants will be informed about the composition of the committee, and each applicant is given the opportunity to comment on the part of the assessment that concerns him/her self. Once the recruitment process is completed a final letter of rejection is sent to the deselected applicants.

### **Letter of reference**

If you want a referee to upload a letter of reference on your behalf, please state the referee's contact information when you submit your application. We strongly recommend that you make an agreement with the person in question before you enter the referee's contact information, and that you ensure that the referee has enough time to write the letter of reference before the application deadline. Unfortunately, it is not possible to ensure that letters of reference received after the application deadline will be taken into consideration.

If you wish to add a referee **after** you have submitted your application, you must send this person's details (name, job title, place of work, and email address) as well as the name of the position you have applied for to: HR.Nattech@au.dk

### **Formalities and salary range**

Natural Sciences refers to the [Ministerial Order on the Appointment of Academic Staff at Danish Universities under the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation](#).

The application must be in English and include a curriculum vitae, degree certificate, a complete list of publications, a statement of future research plans and information about research activities, teaching portfolio and verified information on previous teaching experience (if any). Guidelines for applicants can be found [here](#).

Appointment shall be in accordance with the collective labour agreement between the Danish Ministry of Taxation and the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations. Further information on qualification requirements and job content may be found in the [Memorandum on Job Structure for Academic Staff at Danish Universities](#).

Salary depends on seniority as agreed between the Danish Ministry of Taxation and the Confederation of Professional Associations.

Aarhus University's ambition is to be an attractive and inspiring workplace for all and to foster a culture in which each individual has opportunities to thrive, achieve and develop. We view equality and diversity as assets, and we welcome all applicants.

Research activities will be evaluated in relation to actual research time. Thus, we encourage applicants to specify periods of leave without research activities, in order to be able to subtract these periods from the span of the scientific career during the evaluation of scientific productivity.

Aarhus University offers a broad variety of services for international researchers and accompanying families, including relocation service and career counselling to expat partners. Read more [here](#). Please find more information about entering and working in Denmark [here](#).

Aarhus University also offers a Junior Researcher Development Programme targeted at career development for postdocs at AU. You can read more about it [here](#).

At the Faculty of Natural Science at Aarhus University, we strive to support our scientific staff in their career development. We focus on competency development and career clarification and want to make your opportunities transparent. On [our website](#), you can find information on all types of scientific positions, as well as the entry criteria we use when assessing candidates. You can also read more about how we can assist you in your career planning and development.

*The application must be submitted via Aarhus University's recruitment system, which can be accessed under the job advertisement on Aarhus University's website.*

### **Aarhus University**

*Aarhus University is an academically diverse and research-intensive university with a strong commitment to high-quality research and education and the development of society nationally and globally. The university offers an inspiring research and teaching environment to its 38,000 students (FTEs) and 8,300 employees, and has an annual revenues of EUR 935 million. Learn more at [www.international.au.dk/](http://www.international.au.dk/)*