Postdoc: Integrative structural biology and biophysics of dynamic plant hormone transporters

Aarhus University invites applications for a postdoc position within the Plant-PATH Center of Excellence within the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics. The project focuses on biophysical characterization of the intrinsically disordered regions of plant hormone transporters – initially focusing on auxin transporters of the PIN family and their interactions.

Application Deadline:
02 March 2026

Institute/Faculty:
Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics

Faculty:
Faculty of Natural Sciences

Academic contact person:
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Vacant positions:
1

Number of months:
36

Hours per week:
37

Expected date of accession:
01/06/2026

Expected start date and duration of employment

The position is initially for 3 years with the possibility of extension. The earliest starting date is 1 June 2026.

Job description

The Plant-PATH Center of Excellence seeks to understand the molecular basis for hormone transport in plants and how it can be manipulated in biotechnology. The present project will focus on membrane transporters from the PIN family which transport auxin to regulate plant growth. We are particularly interested in deciphering the role of the large intrinsically disordered loops using structural and biophysical approaches. The project may involve a combination of protein engineering, characterization of protein interactions by various methods, de novo design of protein binders, integrative structural biology using NMR, SAXS and/or single molecule FRET.

Your profile

The project will involve both experimental and computational work and the candidate is expected to be comfortable with both. The candidate is expected to have (or be close to finishing) a Ph.D. in molecular biology, biochemistry, biophysics, biology, biotechnology, nanoscience or similar, and a good track record of productivity. Experience with some, but not all, of the following topics is required: Recombinant protein expression and purification, biochemical and biophysical protein characterization, protein structure prediction or computational protein design. Furthermore, we expect an interest in interdisciplinarity and good collaboration skills.

Who we are

The candidate will become part of a young and dynamic research group currently consisting of ~15 members. The research group has a newly renovated lab space with excellent facilities for protein science research. There will be direct access to advanced biophysical infrastructure in the biophysics core facility headed by the PI, a GPU cluster with working pipelines for computational design and the department's bioimaging and proteomics core facilities. The project will be part of the Plant-PATH Center of Excellence, which unites leading groups in Denmark, Belgium, and Germany, and offers the successful candidate excellent opportunities for interdisciplinary training, exchange, and scientific collaboration.

Plant-PATH homepage:
https://mbg.au.dk/plant-path

Place of work and area of employment

The place of work is Universitetsbyen 81, 8000 Aarhus C, and the area of employment is Aarhus University with related departments.

Contact information

For further information, please contact:
Associate Professor Magnus Kjærgaard (magnus@mbg.au.dk).

Deadline

Applications must be received no later than 2 March 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/