



Two PhD students positions in the Laboratory of Prokaryotic Gene Regulation

The Laboratory of Prokaryotic Gene Regulation <https://shorturl.at/bEAXg> at the International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw, headed by Ewelina Małecka, PhD, is looking for **two PhD students**.

You will join the project entitled “RNA biology at the phage–bacteria interface” carried out as the Opus grant (2025/57/B/NZ1/03589) of the National Science Centre, Poland led by Dr Ewelina Malecka.

The goal of the project is to define how RNA-binding proteins shape phage-host interactions in *Acinetobacter baumannii*, with particular emphasis on the bacterial Hfq and a phage-encoded Ro60 homolog. To achieve this, we will employ a combination of transcriptomic, biochemical, and biophysical approaches. We will identify RNA and protein interaction partners of both Hfq and Ro60 under normal and phage-infected conditions. Additionally, *in vitro* assays will be conducted to dissect the RNA-binding specificity, dynamics, and functional roles of these proteins. By linking molecular interactions to functional outcomes, the project aims to uncover how phages reprogram host RNA metabolism.

As a PhD student, you will work at the interface of molecular microbiology and RNA biology, focusing on *Acinetobacter baumannii* and its interactions with bacteriophages. You will design and execute infection experiments using genetically distinct phages and combine time-resolved RNA-seq, interactome mapping (CRAC, RIL-Seq, co-IP/MS) with *in vitro* biochemical and single-molecule assays to dissect the functions of RNA-binding proteins. You will purify proteins, fluorescently label RNAs, and analyze complex datasets to build mechanistic models of RNA-protein interactions and their functional consequences.

The admissions process is conducted through the Doctoral School website system. The PhD student can apply to this specific project carried out as part of the Warsaw-4-PhD doctoral school via website <https://shorturl.at/cJKQY> (the application system will be activated from 18th of December, 2025; deadline for sending application is 6th of January, 2026). For more information, please follow the link <https://shorturl.at/mvxOR>

Candidates will be selected according to the procedure complying the rules for granting scholarships for young scientists in research projects funded by the National Science Centre (NCN Council Resolution No. 25/2024 dated March 4, 2024), recruitment procedure for the Warsaw-4-PhD and the procedure complying with the rules of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers as a part of HR Excellence in Research Strategy <https://url-shortener.me/A8V>

Requirements for the candidate:

- Master's degree in biology, biochemistry, or related fields.
- Solid knowledge of fundamental molecular biology and biochemistry.
- Hands-on laboratory experience and familiarity with basic molecular biology techniques.
- Previous experience in recombinant protein purification and microscopy is a plus.

- Proficiency in spoken and written English.
- Strong interpersonal skills, initiative, and good organizational abilities.
- Willingness to learn and take on new challenges, ability to work independently, and analytical thinking skills.

We offer:

1. Full-time PhD scholarship 4 years (8 semesters) in amount:
 - a) before the mid-term evaluation 5500 pln net/month;
 - b) after mid-term evaluation 6000 pln net/month
2. Position with 100% focus on research (no teaching obligations)
3. Benefits including reduced-rate for an individual private medical care package and membership in MultiSport programme
4. Full technical, administrative and organizational support from professional English-speaking personnel
5. Participation in courses, scientific training, support from peers, and academic mentoring

Deadline for applications is **6th of January, 2026**. The summer semester at the Doctoral School shall begin on **16th of February, 2026**.

How to apply:

- Apply via website <https://shorturl.at/cJKQY> (the application system will be activated from 18th of December, 2025; deadline for sending application is 6th of January, 2026). If you have any enquiries about the recruitment process or the project, please send your request to emalecka@iimcb.gov.pl
- Please include the following statement in your email: *"I hereby agree to the processing of my personal data, included in the application documents by the International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw, 4 Księcia Trojdena Street, 02-109 Warsaw, for the purpose of carrying out the current recruitment process."* Your personal data will be processed for the purpose of the recruitment procedure by the International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw. Full information is available under the link <https://bit.ly/3UFWpY2>
- Procedure for reporting irregularities, taking follow-up actions, and protecting whistleblowers: <https://shorturl.at/u2mww>