

Hier  
entsteht  
Zukunft!



UNIVERSITÄT  
DES  
SAARLANDES

Foto: Oliver Dietze



Saarland University is a campus university that is internationally recognized for its strong research programmes. Fostering young academic talent and creating ideal conditions for teaching and research are a core part of the university's mission. As part of the University of the Greater Region, Saarland University enables students and staff to share and exchange knowledge and ideas between disciplines, between universities and across borders. With over 17,000 national and international students, studying more than a hundred different academic disciplines, Saarland University is a diverse and dynamic learning environment. [Saarland University is officially recognized as one of Germany's family-friendly higher-education institutions and with a combined workforce of more than 4,000 it is one of the largest employers in the region.]

The Professor of Microbiology, Faculty of Natural Sciences, is inviting applications for the following position commencing at the earliest opportunity.

## Academic research assistant (PhD position) (m/f/x)

**Reference number W2426**, salary in accordance with the German TV-L salary scale<sup>1</sup>, pay grade: E13 TV- L, duration of employment: initially 3 years, volume of employment: 50 % of standard working time.

### Workplace/Department:

Regulation of protein translocation across the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) membrane: Proteins are transported through the ER membrane for biosynthetic protein import of secretory and transmembrane proteins by the Sec61 channel. So far, little is known about regulation of Sec61 channel activity. We are currently investigating the role of phosphorylation on transport through the Sec61 channel, and identifying proteins whose secretion is regulated. We have recently shown that the phosphorylated channel subunit is essential for virulence of a major human fungal pathogen. We employ a mixture of protein biochemistry, yeast genetics, and cell-free assays to address these questions.

We are a small international lab working in a competitive area, so candidates need to be highly motivated and working to a high standard. The lab language is English, but acquisition of at least rudimentary German is desirable. The thesis can be written and defended in English or German. Candidates are expected to participate in teaching two practicals a year, and in co-supervising BSc and MSc students alongside their thesis work. PhD students are expected to finish within 3-4 years with at least one first-author publication.

<sup>1</sup> TV-L = collective agreement on remuneration of public sector employees in the German *Länder*

The pay grade assigned to an employee depends on their professional qualifications and the number of years of service. Each pay grade is further subdivided into levels. Entry-level employees with no previous experience will initially be assigned a level 1 rating. After one year at level 1 of the E10 pay grade, an employee will move up to level 2. After a further two years, the employee will move to level 3, etc.

Barbieri G, Simon J, Barbarit A, Lupusella C, Pereira F, Elia F, Meyer H, Schuldiner M, Hanes SD, Nguyen D, Helms V, Römisch K (2023). ER translocation of suboptimal targeting sequences depends on Sec61beta/Sbh1 and is fine-tuned by phosphorylation. *J Biol Chem* 299:102895.

Santiago Tirado F, Hurtaux T, Helms V, Geddes-McAlister J, Nguyen D, Helms V, Doering T, Römisch K (2023). The ER protein translocation channel subunit Sbh1 controls virulence of *Cryptococcus neoformans*. *mBio* 14(1):e0338422.

Bhadra P, Yadhanapudi L, Römisch K, Helms V (2021). How does the presence/absence of Sec63 affect Sec61 conformations? *PLoS Computational Biology* 17(3):e1008855.

Elia F, Yadhanapudi L, Tretter T, Römisch K (2019). The N-terminus of Sec61p plays key roles in ER protein import and ERAD. *PLoS ONE* 14(4):e0215950.

### Job requirements and responsibilities:

- Candidates will work on an aspect of regulated protein transport across the ER membrane. Prior experience with yeast genetics, protein biochemistry, or cell-free assays would be helpful. PhD students are expected to finish within 3-4 years with at least one first-author publication.

### Your academic qualifications:

- Completed scientific university studies in Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, or a similar field including a BSc and a 2-year MSc programme.

### The successful candidate will also be expected to:

- participate in teaching 2 practicals per year,
- participate in supervision of BSc and MSc students,
- Language skills: the lab language is English, but acquisition of rudimentary German would be desirable.

### What we can offer you:

- A flexible work schedule allowing you to balance work and family, among other things the possibility of teleworking,
- Secure and future-oriented employment with attractive conditions,
- A broad range of further education and professional development programmes (for example language courses),
- An occupational health management model with numerous attractive options, such as our university sports programme,
- Supplementary pension scheme (RZVK),
- Discounted tickets on local public transport services ('Job-Ticket Plus' of the saarVV),

We look forward to receiving your **meaningful online application** by **20th of February 2024**. The application should include a motivational letter, a CV detailing education and lab experience and names and contact details of 2 references. Applications should be sent in **a single PDF file** to **karin.roemisch@uni-saarland.de**. Please include the reference number **W2426** in the subject line of the e-mail.

If you have any **questions**, please contact us for assistance. Your contact:

Dr. Karin Römisch

Professor of Microbiology

E-Mail: [karin.roemisch@uni-saarland.de](mailto:karin.roemisch@uni-saarland.de)

Pay grade classification is based on the particular details of the position held and the extent to which the applicant meets the requirements of the pay grade within the TV-L salary scale. Part-time employment is generally possible.

If you have obtained a foreign university degree, a proof of the equivalence of this degree with a German degree by the Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen (ZAB) is needed before hiring. If necessary, please apply for this in time. You can find more information at <https://www.kmk.org/zeugnisbewertung>.

Unfortunately, neither costs for attending an interview at Saarland University nor costs for any certificate evaluation by the ZAB can be reimbursed in principle.

We welcome applications regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic and social origin, religion/belief, disability, age, and sexual orientation and identity. In accordance with its policy of increasing the proportion of women, the University actively encourages applications from women. Applications from severely disabled persons are expressly welcome and will be given preferential consideration in the event of equal suitability.

When you submit a job application to Saarland University you will be transmitting personal data. [Please refer to our privacy notice for information on how we collect and process personal data in accordance with Art. 13 of the Datenschutz-Grundverordnung](#). By submitting your application you confirm that you have taken note of the information in the Saarland University privacy notice.