



EC MARIE CURIE INITIAL TRAINING NETWORK – PhD opportunities available

PhD Research post opportunities for Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Graduates – in UK, Switzerland, Belgium, Finland and Spain .

MENTIDES Project – Membrane Enhanced Tide Synthesis- A New Paradigm Peptide/Oligonucleotide Synthesis Technology

We are seeking to appoint high quality research students/Early Stage Researchers to a number of exciting positions across the EU, funded by a European Commission FP7 Marie Curie Initial Training Network (ITN) – MENTIDES. These positions are available from January 2010 and appointments will be made no later than September 2010. Each researcher appointed to work on this project will undertake a PhD at a leading university.

About the project

The MENTIDES Initial Training Network will create a new generation of synthesis technologies for peptide and oligonucleotide (“tide”) manufacture, with focus on the use of emerging membrane technology to effect critical separations. Researchers appointed to the project will help develop new nanofiltration membranes with improved chemical stability, and closely controlled molecular discrimination properties. Novel synthesis strategies for tides, which utilise membranes for key separations will be created and researchers will consider both step change improvements to solid phase tide synthesis, and the realisation of a completely new concept of tide synthesis based on solution phase synthesis coupled to membrane purification. The applications of these technologies will be through the industrial partners.

Which organisations are involved?

MENTIDES is a funded collaboration of six partner institutions, comprising 3 Universities and 3 companies within the UK, Switzerland, Belgium, Finland and Spain. Early Stage Researchers will be employed at each of the partner locations for the purposes of their research training. They will complete a PhD thesis through a combination of local and network wide research experience and have opportunities to gain career-orientated insights from other partners within the consortium. Researchers based at the Universities will undertake their PhD studies at the host University. Research students based at the industrial partners

listed below will be registered for a PhD at either Imperial College or University of Barcelona.

Opportunities are available in the following leading edge institutions/companies:

- Imperial College, UK (2 positions)
- Membrane Extraction Technology, UK
- Lonza Limited, Visp, Switzerland
- Janssen Pharmaceutica, Belgium
- University of Barcelona, Spain (2 positions)
- University of Turku, Finland (2 positions)

(For the positions at The University of Turku, preference will be given to applicants in chemistry of nucleosides, nucleotides or oligonucleotides. For further information about the Turku opportunities please contact Prof Harri Lonnberg, e-mail: harlon@utu.fi)

Researchers will receive a highly competitive salary and generous allowances for travel and for participation in the training and research events of the Network.

The conditions of appointment will be governed by the rules of the Human Capital and Mobility programme and all hired researchers will be paid a salary and other allowances. Applicants should check the eligibility criteria given in the EC programme.

TO APPLY

Applicants must have achieved a good Masters degree in a chemical engineering, chemical technology, chemistry or a related subject. Applicants cannot be appointed to a position within their host country.

Applications must be sent by e-mail, with subject marked "MEMTIDE APPLICATION" to: Angela Lonergan, Project Manager, Imperial College, London: Email: a.lonergan@imperial.ac.uk Tel: +44(0) 24 7594 5587. The recruitment process for posts will take place between January and July 2010, although applicants are strongly recommended to apply no later than 19 March 2010 since the first round of appointments will be decided by that date.

Applications will only be considered if they include all of the following:

1. A detailed curriculum vitae containing the applicant's full academic record to date, with marks and scores achieved at all levels.
2. A statement which clearly specifies which position/s/locations the applicant wishes to apply for, together with reasons for applying for the post/s.
3. Details of internationally recognised language qualifications achieved.

Applications will be forwarded to the relevant partner for consideration.

25 January 2010