Leibniz-Institut für Gemüse- und Zierpflanzenbau Großbeeren/Erfurt e.V.

The Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops (IGZ) strives for excellence in horticultural research and related plant, environmental, and social sciences. Based in Großbeeren, close to Potsdam and Berlin, IGZ is a member of the Leibniz Association (WGL). Our mission is to provide science-based solutions that address four challenges currently threatening horticultural systems: climate change, biodiversity and pesticide reduction, healthy nutrition and food quality, and resource-efficient agricultural and food systems. Our scientific expertise covers the entire spectrum, from molecular plant physiology and biochemistry to human nutrition, food security, and horticultural production systems, thereby covering the full range from fundamental to applied research. The scientist will be part of the research group “Stress and Developmental Integration”. Our group is interested to understand the molecular mechanisms underlying the developmental adaptations of plants such as tomato to recurring temperature stresses. We are looking for an enthusiastic and ambitious: Scientist (f,m,div) in Molecular Biology

Scientist (f,m,div) in Molecular Biology

Reference number: 02/2026/1

City: Großbeeren; Starting date (earliest): At the earliest possible; Duration: 2 years; Remuneration: up to EG 13 TV-L; Reference number: 02/2026/1; Closing date: 10/04/26

Tasks

Employment will be initially for two years. The salary will be based on qualification and research experience according to the wage agreement TV-L, up to EG 13, full time. The position is suitable for part-time work.

The project aims to investigate how plant developmental processes respond to temperature changes and how plants adapt to temperature stress. This project focuses on tomato (Solanum lycopersicum) as a model crop species. In particular, the project seeks to identify the molecular and regulatory mechanisms that enable plants to perceive, respond to, and remember recurring heat stress at the cellular level. By analyzing gene expression dynamics, transcriptional regulatory networks, and developmental responses under stress conditions, the project aims to improve our understanding of plant stress adaptation. Ultimately, this knowledge may support the development of climate-resilient tomato cultivars with improved growth and productivity under fluctuating environmental conditions.

Tasks include

- analysis of the dynamics and responsiveness of gene expression in response to temperature changes
- identification of transcriptional regulatory networks involved in heat stress responses
- generation of CRISPR mutants in tomato
- supervising Bachelor's and Master's students

- writing scientific publications and presentation of results to an international scientific audience

Requirements

We are looking for candidates with

- a completed Ph.D. in plant biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, or genetics
- experience in working with tomato plants, including tissue culture
- experience in cloning and in assays for analyzing transcriptional regulation and protein–protein interactions
- experience in confocal microscopy–based analysis of protein localization and stress responses
- very good knowledge of English (both oral and written)
- high degree of responsibility, accuracy, and ability to focus and prioritize
- readiness to integrate into an international working environment

What we offer

We offer

- the opportunity to work in an interdisciplinary way on a cutting-edge research project related to plant science
- an attractive workplace with first-class laboratory equipment near Potsdam and Berlin
- a pleasant and appreciative working atmosphere
- flexible and family-friendly working time models and the possibility of mobile working (up to 50% of working time)
- VBL Ost company pension scheme for public sector employees, as well as a collectively agreed annual bonus and 30 days' vacation per year
- subsidy for a company ticket for public transport or the Deutschlandticket (Germany ticket)

More information on about the IGZ you can find under www.igzev.de. For questions, please contact: Dr. Justyna Olas-Apelt (+49(0)33701 78 244; olas@igzev.de).

We encourage a healthy work-life balance. The IGZ attaches great importance to equal opportunities. Applicants with disabilities will be given preference in case of equal qualifications. The IGZ embraces diversity in its workforce, and welcomes applications from all qualified candidates, irrespective of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, belief or ethnic origin.

Application

Please send your complete application (stating the reference number and including a motivation letter, your CV and academic certificates) by email to bewerbung@igzev.de in pdf format by April 10, 2026.