

Expressions of Interest - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme

The University of Essex's Plant Productivity Research Group is a team of internationally respected plant science researchers based in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Essex. We are united around understanding the physiological and genetic basis of crop yield. We respond to this challenge by taking a whole organism approach to identify key genes and processes that determine productivity in plants in constantly changing environmental conditions. We have an excellent track record in funding and conducting our research and maintaining our international reputations in these areas. We have considerable expertise in the investigation of the growth and physiology of plants under both benign and stressful conditions in the laboratory and the field. This is underpinned by a considerable and continual investment in our specialised research facilities. Consequently, we have state-of-the art equipment and technologies for our research, including bespoke instrumentation and software designed and built in-house.

Full details about the Group can be found on our website:

http://www.essex.ac.uk/bs/research/centres_and_groups/pp/

Essex ranks in the top 20 UK universities for research excellence. The Plant Productivity Group would like to invite Expressions of Interest from postdoctoral researchers of any nationality (at any career stage) to apply for a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship. We are looking to support a small number of high-quality applications under the new round and would welcome expressions of interest from interested researchers, particularly, but not exclusively, in the following areas:

- The development and use of a suite of fluorescent protein redox biosensors to probe chloroplast metabolism under fluctuating environmental conditions
- The use of fluorescent biosensors for the development of sentinel crops
- The sub-specialisation of chloroplasts appressed and unattached to the nucleus.
- The manipulation of guard cell metabolism to optimise stomatal conductance, photosynthesis and water use efficiency.
- The development and use of imaging technologies to phenotype plant performance and select traits of interest.
- The impact of fluctuating light on photosynthetic acclimation and plant performance.

Description of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme

The purpose of the Individual Fellowship is to support the career development and training of researchers through international mobility. The scheme allows researchers to move around, into or within EU Member States and Associated Countries and, in some cases, spend time outside Europe. The grant provides researchers with up to two years' salary, a mobility allowance, family allowance (if required) as well as funding for research, training and networking. Full details of the scheme are available at <http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>.

Eligibility and Requirements

Candidates should hold a doctoral degree – or have at least four years of full-time research experience - in a relevant life science discipline. Candidates are also expected to have good problem solving, troubleshooting, and analytical skills, be fluent in English, have good interpersonal and written and oral communication skills, and be able to work independently as well as within an international team.

At the time of the call deadline (14 September 2017), researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (e.g. work, studies etc.) in the UK for more than 12 months in the last 3 years.

Submitting an Expression of Interest

Interested applicants should submit a one-page CV, an outline of the proposed research (maximum 1,000 words) and a cover letter highlighting why you believe this area of work will be suited to the Plant Productivity Group as the host institution (maximum 500 words).

Please submit these in Word format to by Friday 1st July to Dr Beverley Wilkinson, Research Manager, School of Biological Sciences, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3SQ, UK
E-mail: bwilk@essex.ac.uk

An expression of interest is not a promise of funding or position. It is an expression of interest in making a future application with the University of Essex as your host.

Review of expressions of interest will start after the July deadline. Proposals will be evaluated based on research quality, the applicant's future career prospects and the availability of appropriate supervision. The best proposals will be chosen for submission to the MSCF competition.

The successful applicant[s] will be supported in completing their application by the scheme deadline of 14 September 2017.

Best regards,

Professors Phil Mullineaux & Tracy Lawson