



Funded by the
European Union

WE ARE RECRUITING 11 PhD STUDENTS! DO NOT MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY!

DEADLINE: 1st October 2022

EpiSeedLink Doctoral Network - 11 PhD positions in Epigenetic Mechanisms of Priming to Design Strategies for Crop Improvement

<https://episeedlink.eu/>

The *EpiSeedLink* Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Network is recruiting **11 PhD students!**

The *EpiSeedLink* consortium comprises 9 leading research teams across Europe (Spain, France, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and Ireland) and two industrial stakeholders (Germany and Ireland).

EpiSeedLink's mission is to train 11 predoctoral researchers in the **epigenetic regulation of seed priming mechanisms** and to translate scientific knowledge and skills into innovation and applications. Crop performance is threatened by climate change and hence *EpiSeedLink* focuses on training a new generation of scientists with a broad range of scientific and transferable (e.g. communication and entrepreneurship) skills to tackle main agricultural challenges, and to enhance their career perspectives in both academic and non-academic environments. Through its doctoral training programme, the **network will provide international, multidisciplinary, and inter-sectorial training** in experimental and computational biology, and will generate an in depth understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying 'epigenome priming' at the genetic and molecular level. The programme combines the unique know-how of academic experts and seed companies in seed biology, crop breeding, epigenetics, biochemistry and biostimulants to synergise research and knowledge transfer between a model plant (*Arabidopsis thaliana*) and the premium crop oilseed rape (*Brassica napus*). *EpiSeedLink* will hence not only contribute to excellent research, but also address urgent societal and agricultural needs by contributing to the development of a sustainable bioeconomy and meeting climate targets.

Appointment

The duration of the appointment as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie DN fellow will be for a maximum period of 3 years (PhD student). The appointment as a PhD student should lead to a dissertation (PhD thesis).

Positions are aimed at being full-time, but if necessary (e.g. for family or medical reasons) part-time appointments are also possible. In cases where researchers – in agreement with the host organisation, and with prior approval of the European Research Executive Agency – execute their project on a part-time basis, the duration of the appointment can be extended, but not longer than the duration of the *EpiSeedLink* project (48 months; end date Sept 30, 2026).

All partners are committed to facilitate an appropriate work-life balance. The policy of *EpiSeedLink* is to promote equal opportunities and no discrimination against researchers in any way, including gender diversity or other intersectional factors. We strongly encourage women and other under-represented groups to apply.

Benefits

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Network Program offers a highly competitive and attractive salary and working conditions. Each fellowship includes the following:

- ~3400 €/month gross. This amount is different depending on the country of residence and depends on country-specific correction coefficients and tax.
- The host organisation will appoint the candidate under an employment contract.
- The host organisation will ensure that the researcher is covered under the social security scheme that is applied to employers within the respective country, or under a social security scheme that provides coverage for at least sickness and maternity benefits, invalidity and accidents at work and occupational diseases, and covers the researcher in every place at which Marie Skłodowska-Curie DN activities will take place. The exact conditions will differ per country.
- To cover personal household, relocation and travel expenses, 600€/month gross will be paid to each candidate.
- When applicable, family, long-term leave and special needs allowances may also be provided.
- The fellows will benefit from *EpiSeedLink* Training Programme designed to exploit the multidisciplinary skills of our network. To meet the challenges of the changing climate, excellent and creative scientists are required, skilled in high-end technologies, with broad expertise and able to translate scientific knowledge into innovation. *EpiSeedLink* will offer an international, multidisciplinary and inter-sectorial, custom developed training programme that promotes scientific excellence and exploits the expertise and infrastructure present in the consortium.

Requirements

Candidates can only apply for a position in a country different from the one they lived in for most of the time in the last three years. At the time of recruitment by the host organisation, researchers should not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference date. Candidates should not have been awarded a doctoral degree yet.

What do you have to offer?

You are eager to pursue a career in science, perform a PhD abroad and spend part of your PhD in an *EpiSeedLink* partner group (5-12 months). You are able to work in a team as well as independently, enjoy working on collaborative projects, and can deal with and are in for a challenge. You are keen on getting experience in performing interdisciplinary research and also learn about working in a company. You are proficient in English and willing to improve your English communication skills, keen on supervising BSc and MSc students during practicals and/or internships if applicable, and eager to engage in the training activities of *EpiSeedLink*.

How to apply?

Please, visit *EpiSeedLink* webpage (<https://episeedlink.eu/>) to access the application form. The application form will be supported with the following information:

- Motivation letter.
- Curriculum vitae in the Europass format, including:

List of internships (subject, name supervisor, institution, grade, length, etc)

Publications (if applicable)

If possible TOEFL scores (www.ets.org) when grade is obtained in non-native English-speaking country

- Grades (with explanation of the grading system)
- A list of four prioritised positions of interest
- Contact information of two referees willing to write a letter of recommendation. The referees will be approached directly by *EpiSeedLink* to provide their recommendation letter.

Deadline for applications: 1st of October 2022

Selection process

We will choose the candidates that fit best for the different projects in the following steps:

- Eligibility check: our recruitment committee will select the eligible candidates based on the criteria listed under requirements.
- Online interview: each eligible application will be assessed, and eligible candidates will be selected for an online interview. Based on the online interviews, candidates will be notified whether they have been selected for the face-to-face interview.
- Face-to-face interviews: selected candidates will be invited for a 2-day interview event at the Centro Nacional de Biotecnología (Campus Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain) at the beginning of November.

Interviews will take place on 2nd and 3rd of November 2022

Day 1 of the interview event will start with parallel sessions during which candidates are invited to give a 10-minute presentation, followed by 10 minutes of discussion. Day 1 will also include an introductory meeting and will end with a social program.

Day 2 will consist of parallel sessions during which the candidates will have an interview with *EpiSeedLink* principal investigators.

- Notification of the selection outcome. Within 2 weeks after the interviews, candidates will be offered a position or will be informed about the rejection decision.

The evaluation and selection procedure will occur in a non-discriminatory manner, promoting equal opportunities and no discrimination against researchers in any way, including gender diversity or other intersectional factors. We strongly encourage women and other under-represented groups to apply.