

Research Associate - Medicago symbiosis

Applications are invited for a Post-doctoral Research Associate position in the group of [Dr Sebastian Schornack](#) at the Sainsbury Laboratory (SLCU), **Cambridge University**, to study colonisation processes of filamentous microbes in plants.

The overall aim of this position is to study the interaction of *Medicago truncatula* with beneficial symbionts and detrimental pathogens. We have recently identified a significant overlap between symbiotic and pathogenic interactions (see Rey et al, 2014, New Phytol. DOI: [10.1111/nph.13233](https://doi.org/10.1111/nph.13233)). The successful candidate will take advantage of our established experimental systems to study the interaction of *Phytophthora palmivora* and mycorrhiza fungi with *Medicago truncatula* using genetics, transcriptomics, microscopy and biochemical approaches. Candidates will also be able to develop their own research objectives and proposals such as evolutionary aspects of colonisation processes within the frame of our general research. The candidate will be provided with horticultural/technician support and will be able to team up with post docs studying microbial effector biology and monocot resistance breeding.

Candidates must have or be close to finishing a PhD in a relevant discipline (e.g. plant biology, plant biochemistry). Previous experience with *Medicago truncatula*, *Lotus japonicus* or similar legumes is desirable. Proficiency in qPCR analysis, cloning and fluorescence microscopy is also required.

The successful candidate will be fully involved in the basic research in these areas whilst also writing up their research work for presentation and publication. The post holder may be required to assist in the supervision of student projects, provide instructions to students and deliver seminars relating to their research area.

Good communication skills are essential as the post holder will need to work well in a team and collaborate with other researchers in the Institute. Candidates would ideally have published or submitted papers in this area. Candidates should demonstrate a history of science communication (e.g. presentations, outreach activities, teaching).

- Salary: up to £37,394
- **Closing date: 15 April 2015**
- Fixed-term: The funds for this post are available for 2 years in the first instance.
- Download: [generic further information](#)
- You can [apply online](#) for this vacancy. You will need to register an account (if you have not already) and log in before completing the online application form.
- Please ensure that you upload a copy of your full CV, a supporting statement and contact information of three referees.
- Please quote reference PT05617 on your application and in any correspondence about this vacancy.

The University values diversity and is committed to equality of opportunity. The University has a responsibility to ensure that all employees are eligible to live and work in the UK.