



UNIVERSITY
OF COLOGNE

Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

Postdoctoral researcher in fungus-microbiota interactions (f/m/x)

AG Thomma

We are one of the largest and oldest universities in Europe and one of the most important employers in our region. Our broad range of subjects, the dynamic development of our main research areas and our central location in Cologne make us attractive for students and researchers from around the world. We offer a wide range of career opportunities in science, technology, and administration.

The Evolutionary Microbiology group aims to gain fundamental understanding of how fungal pathogens cause disease on plant hosts. To this end, we study mechanisms of pathogenicity (and how they evolved). This research is performed in the context of the plant as a "holobiont"; an assemblage of the host and its associated microbes that contribute to its functioning.

We currently invite applications from candidates interested in studying interactions between fungi and the microbiota in their environment, either in the context of interactions with plant hosts or inter-organismal interactions in the soil. Researchers with a wet-lab profiles as well as bioinformaticians are equally encouraged to apply.

YOUR TASKS

- » Designing, developing and executing a research project on mechanistic interactions of fungi with microbiota inhabitants in their environment, leading to a deeper understanding of the importance of such interactions for fungal biology.

YOUR PROFILE

- » You hold a Doctoral degree in microbiology, molecular biology, biochemistry, plant science, bioinformatics or a related discipline
- » Experience in fungal and/or microbiota research is highly advantageous
- » Willingness and ability to apply for individual funding is a plus
- » Unwavering commitment to high-quality research
- » Drive, curiosity and creativity as well as a strong ability to solve problems through critical analytical and conceptual thinking
- » Excellent communication skills, fluency in English and the ability to collaborate effectively in an international and multidisciplinary team

WE OFFER

- » A diverse working environment with equal opportunities
- » Support in balancing work and family life
- » Flexible working time models, full-time positions suitable for job sharing
- » Extensive advanced training opportunities
- » Occupational health management offers
- » Opportunity to work remotely

The University of Cologne promotes equal opportunities and diversity. Women will be considered preferentially in accordance with the Equal Opportunities Act of North Rhine-Westphalia (Landesgleichstellungsgesetz – LGG NRW). We also expressly welcome applications from all suitable candidates regardless of their gender, nationality, ethnic and social origin, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation and identity.

The positions are available from 1 August 2025 on a full-time basis (39,83 hours per week). The position is to be filled for a fixed term until 31 July 2027. If the applicant meets the relevant wage requirements and personal qualifications, the salary will be based on remuneration group 13 TV-L of the pay scale for the German public sector.

Please apply online with proof of the required qualifications (letter of motivation, CV, list of publications, copies of certificates) without a photo under: <https://jobportal.uni-koeln.de>. The reference number is Wiss2505-16.

The application deadline is 27 June 2025.

For further inquiries, please contact Bart Thomma (bthomma@uni-koeln.de) and take a look at our [FAQs](#).



hr EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH