



UNIVERSITY
OF COLOGNE

Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

Postdoc position on plant immunity in cereals (f/m/x)

CEPLAS | Institute for Plant Sciences / Saur Lab

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 Saur Lab (saurlab.com) at the Institute for Plant Sciences is seeking a Postdoctoral Researcher in the field of molecular plant-microbe interactions.

This ERC-funded position is initially available for two years. The Saur Lab is part of CEPLAS, CRC1403, and FOR5682, providing access to state-of-the-art research facilities and a vibrant, interdisciplinary research environment.

Our group investigates the molecular mechanisms underlying plant-microbe interactions. The successful candidate will perform molecular and biochemical experiments to identify and characterize key factors that mediate non-host resistance to fungal phytopathogens in agriculturally important cereal crops.

YOUR TASKS

- » The primary goal of this research is to advance strategies for controlling fungal pathogens that affect economically important crops. As a member of the Saur Group, the successful candidate will investigate non-host resistance mechanisms to fungal phytopathogens

This research will involve:

- » Identifying fungal proteins that trigger immune receptor activation (cell death) in non-host plants using molecular biology techniques
- » Isolating non-host receptors through protein-protein interaction analyses
- » Assessing the conservation of fungal effectors and corresponding non-host receptors using available transcriptome datasets

YOUR PROFILE

- » A doctoral degree (or equivalent degree) in Biology or a related field, with documented expertise in molecular plant-microbe interactions
- » Proven experience in molecular cloning and protein-protein interaction analyses
- » Excellent English communication skills, both written and spoken
- » A strong interest in the molecular mechanisms of plant-microbe interactions

- » Experience with transcriptome data analysis will be considered an advantage

WE OFFER

- » A scientifically stimulating environment with a low hierarchy
- » A diverse working environment with equal opportunities
- » Support in balancing work and family life
- » Extensive advanced training opportunities
- » Occupational health management offers
- » Flexible working time models

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 position is available from 1 February 2026 on a full-time basis (39,83 hours per week). The position is to be filled for a fixed term until 31 January 2028. If the applicant meets the relevant wage requirements and personal qualifications, the salary is 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 (without a photo) under <https://jobportal.uni-koeln.de>. The reference number is Wiss2510-12. The application deadline is 27 December 2025.

For further inquiries, please contact Dr Isabel Saur (isaur@uni-koeln.de) and take a look at our [FAQs](#).



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH