

PhD positions (m|w|d)

Apply for your PhD in DESTINY – The doctoral school of the European Bioeconomy University on the DEsign and SuSTainability Assessment of Innovative biomass production systems and value-chains in the BioecoNomY

The EBU's joint doctoral network DESTINY is a Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action and offers a total number of 15 fully funded PhD positions in an inter- and transdisciplinary research and education programme.

Six leading universities in bioeconomy research and training collaborate since 2019 to educate a new generation of truly European experts, fostering rigorous, relevant and interdisciplinary research developing solutions for the challenges of the 21st century.



DESTINY will address the transition from a fossil-based towards a biobased economy by developing novel methods and tools to optimise biomass production systems, develop novel biobased value chains and assess their sustainability holistically.

We cover a number of disciplines and sectors from agronomy and engineering to economics, political and social sciences, to create a novel type of scientist: the bioeconomist.

For achieving this, we offer a multi-disciplinary curriculum to equip the 15 Doctoral Candidates with the knowledge and skills need to become leading experts of Europe's sustainable bioeconomy transition in their research programme at the crossroads between the agricultural and forestry sectors, the bioeconomy industry, academia, consultancies and governments.

PhD research topic

Comprehensive top-down ecological sustainability assessment of biomass potentials in a bioeconomy

(reference code: DESTINY-DC5.4)

The doctoral candidate will research at BOKU University (Vienna, Austria) and at the National Institute of Technology for Life, Food, and Environmental Sciences - AgroParisTech on the following research project.

Specific objective of the PhD research project

- Further developing and implementing top-down models to assess biophysical potentials of biomass provision for Europe and their contribution to meeting human needs for food, fiber and energy.
- Analyzing the influence of key dynamics, including the impacts of climate change, technological advancements, food and land demand, agricultural yields, among others, on sustainable biomass potentials at high spatial detail.
- Quantifying emerging trade-offs between different ecological dimensions (Carbon stocks and flows, biodiversity, etc.) within the context of the food and land-use system.
- Estimate the environmental costs associated with global biomass provision and substitution potentials and assess scale-dependencies.

Conditions and salary

After successful completion of the 3-year PhD programme, the doctoral candidate will receive a PhD double degree from both universities and an additional certificate from the EBU DESTINY network as diploma supplement.

Extent of employment: **Full time**

Duration of employment: **Limited to 36 months**

Salary: Grant provided by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action Joint Doctoral Network:

Living allowance

(gross; pred-doc level): € 5409,62 per month ^a

Mobility allowance: 600.00€ per month

Family allowance: 425.00€ per month) ^b

^a The actual net salary will depend on the national taxation and social security coverage.

^b Only applicable to doctoral candidates having (or acquiring) family obligations during the PhD programme in form of persons linked to them by (i) marriage or a relationship with equivalent status recognized by national legislation, or (ii) dependent children who are being maintained by them) during the action duration.

All DCs will have an office workspace and all facilities for their research project.

For questions on the thesis topic please contact:

karlheinz.erb@boku.ac.at

Supervision and training

- Supervision by leading experts in a Thesis Advisory Committee in a collaborative mentoring programme;
- Network-wide training events: three research schools and four workshops;
- Dissemination and outreach activities (e.g. attend scientific conferences);
- A tailor-made career development plan;
- Guidance and compliance with [The European Charter for Researchers](#);
- One secondments of 10 months at
 - National Institute of Technology for Life, Food, and Environmental Sciences
 - AgroParisTech

Your qualification and experience

- Graduation in a discipline related to agriculture, forestry, sustainability, bioeconomy (Master degree required);
- Profound understanding of biomass supply systems and biobased value chains;
- Strong interest to work in an inter- and transdisciplinary research environment within a Europe-wide network;
- Ability to work on and solve problems independently and well-structured;
- Team spirit, enthusiasm, creativity and willingness to travel;
- Proficiency in written and spoken English (proof required), German is a plus.

Eligibility

The doctoral candidate must comply with the following criteria:

- not have resided or carried out their main activity (e.g. studies) in the country of the recruiting beneficiary for more than 12 months in the past 36 months before recruitment;
- not be in possession of a doctoral degree;
- be enrolled in the doctoral programme leading to the award of a doctoral degree at the first supervising university and, within one year, be enrolled in the doctoral programme leading to the award of a doctoral degree at the first supervising university;
- work exclusively for the PhD research project.

Assessment criteria

The 2-step selection process will be based on the merits providing equal opportunity and will be in agreement with the [European Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers](#).

In the **first step**, applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- scientific quality of the applicant's CV and educational record;
- expected individual impact and benefit to the fellow and to the project;
- ability to collaborate and communicate;
- previous experience in the subject of doctoral research project.

In the **second step**, the shortlisted candidates will be invited for an (online) interview with the Thesis Advisory Committee. Subsequently, the candidates will be notified of the outcome.

Starting Date

The DESTINY doctoral school is planned to start on 1st January 2025 with all doctoral candidates being enrolled as PhD students at the first supervising institution.

Apply now

You can **apply** for a maximum of three PhD positions within DESTINY by submitting the following documents **until 29th February 2024** to destiny-team@agroparistech.fr:

- Up to date CV including details of education/qualifications, work experience and publications;
- Copy of a valid ID/Passport;
- Letter of motivation your research career goals, skills and experience with respect to the PhD research project (max. 1 page);
- Certified copy of the Academic degree translated into English, which does formally entitle to start a PhD programme in the country in which the doctoral candidate intends to be recruited;
- Academic Transcript of Records proofing the candidate to have graduated 'above-average' (average Master grade better than 2.5 or being within the best 50% of the graduates from the Master programme within the year of graduation)
- Summary of the Master Degree thesis or a brief description of the most recent scientific activity;
- Proof of English language (Mother tongue, completion of English Master programme, English test *)

For further information about DESTINY please contact: destiny-team@agroparistech.fr: