



Universität für Bodenkultur Wien
University of Natural Resources
and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna

PHD position

Enzymatic upgrading of Lignin

An opportunity has arisen for a three-year PhD position within the Institute of Environmental Biotechnology at BOKU University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna in Tulln. Our group conducts research aimed at developing and mechanistically studying enzyme-based technologies for processing of biobased materials. We are currently looking for a highly motivated PhD student interested in investigating mechanistic aspects of enzyme-based technologies for tailoring lignin properties for various industrial applications including as multifunctional surface coating materials. The study involves investigating reaction conditions that enable enzymatic grafting of functional molecules onto lignin moieties, optimization of the identified conditions in collaboration with industrial partners.

The ideal candidate should hold an MSc degree in biotechnology, biochemistry, chemistry, or equivalent. Experience in working with enzymes, lignin and/or experience in using of any of these analytical tools (LC-MS-TOF, MALDI-TOF, SEM, AFM, CLSM, FTIR, rheometer) will be an added advantage. The candidate must be highly motivated to work in an inter-disciplinary team with scientists and engineers outside of his/her discipline and ready to quickly work on the ongoing project. The candidate should also have good communication skills (in English).

Our University and Institute based in Tulln offers outstanding study and training conditions with strong links to the industry, modern and high-end working equipment, profound scientific, interactive work environment with motivated international team, as well as the beautiful city of Tulln (20 minutes from Vienna) as an appealing place to work and live in. The Institute offers multidisciplinary research in basic life sciences, engineering sciences, and biotechnology for a sustainable bioeconomy.

Qualified and motivated students are invited to apply for the three-year PhD position. BOKU offers a 30 hours/week position as a Junior Scientist (predoctoral). The gross monthly income is EUR 2.096,- per month (14 times a year) according to Gehaltsgruppe B1 of the Austrian collective contract for university employees.

Applicants should submit their CV and a covering letter including full contact details of two referees to *Professor Georg Guebitz*, E-mail: officeUT@boku.ac.at
BOKU PhD entry requirements must be met.
