The Department of Applied Bioinformatics, Institute for Microbiology and Genetics, at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen is looking to fill the position of a

**Fully funded position as a PhD-Student (Research Fellow) on the project “CarotPhyte” within the framework of the DFG Priority Program “MAdLand” (all genders welcome)**

Regular working hours will be 26 hours per week with a limited contract of three years. This position should be filled by 1 August 2020. Salary: Pay grade 13 TV-L 65%.

Land plants evolved from streptophyte algae and became the dominant players of the terrestrial biome. How this occurred is one of the classical questions in the field of plant evolution—and one of the questions that is at the heart of the efforts outlined in the framework of MAdLand.

A major hurdle in the conquest of land by plants was overcoming the specific stressors of the terrestrial habitat—including drought, high irradiance and rapid temperature shifts. Land plants face these challenges by means of their characteristic biochemistry. This specific biochemistry was—and still is—a major factor in the ability of land plants to adequately respond to the stressors that the terrestrial habitat poses and, hence, one of the likely facilitators of plant terrestrialization.

Carotenoids deriving from the terpenoid pathway are a prime source for a range of secondary metabolites of land plants with diverse functions in stress response: through oxidative cleavage a series of carotenoid-derived metabolites, termed apocarotenoids, emerge from the carotenoid pathway.

As a PhD-student, you will test the hypothesis that streptophyte algae and land plants share the production of a core set of apocarotenoid metabolites that act as signals in stress response. For this, you will apply a combination of biochemical analyses, molecular biology, and transcriptome profiling on the closest algal relatives of land plants.

**Your profile**
- You hold a Master’s degree in Biochemistry or related areas with good to excellent grades
- you have some experience with analytical methods such as HPLC and mass spectrometry
- you are interested in Plant Science, Molecular Evolution, and/or related areas
- are keen to learn a diverse set of techniques, including bioinformatical analyses
- have good communication skills in written and spoken English

The University of Göttingen is an equal opportunities employer and places particular emphasis on fostering career opportunities for women. Qualified women are therefore strongly encouraged to apply in fields in which they are underrepresented. The university has committed itself to being a family-friendly institution and supports their employees in balancing work and family life. The mission of the University is to employ a greater number of severely disabled persons. Applications from severely disabled persons with equivalent qualifications will be given preference.

Please send your application that includes a CV, publication list, motivation letter, and the names as well as contact information of at least two references in electronic form within three weeks after publication of this advertisement to

**Jun.-Prof. Dr. Jan de Vries**  
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**Please note:**  
With submission of your application, you accept the processing of your applicant data in terms of data protection law. Further information on the legal basis and data usage is provided in the Hinweisblatt zur Datenschutzgrundverordnung (DSGVO) [https://www.uni-goettingen.de/hinweisdsгvо](https://www.uni-goettingen.de/hinweisdsгvо)

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