The DFG-funded Collaborative Research Centre 1076 "AquaDiva – Understanding the Links between Surface and Subsurface Biogeosphere" is an ambitious research centre at Friedrich Schiller University. Its integrated research training group IRTG AquaDiva is educating doctoral researchers in a structured, interdisciplinary training program [www.aquadiva.uni-jena.de](http://www.aquadiva.uni-jena.de) and invites applications for PhD positions in various fields of research.

The Institute of Microbiology / Department of Microbial Interactions seeks to fill the position of a

**Doctoral Researcher in Microbiology / Biotechnology (m/f/d)**

commencing on September 1, 2021 or at the earliest possible date in the project "Subsurface Planctomycetes as sources for novel biotechnological applications" (A07).

**Background**

This project aims to understand the role of Planctomycetes in subsurface ecosystems. We will apply our recently established deep cultivation strategy (Wiegand et. al. Nature Microbiology 2020) to target Planctomycetes throughout the Critical Zone with a focus on groundwater habitats. We will employ methods such as classical plate inoculation, semi-automated liquid inoculation using robotics, and bioreactor-based enrichment techniques to obtain novel Planctomycetes. Obtained strains will be subject of in-depth characterization including genome sequencing and analysis, (super-resolution) light microscopy, physiological characterization, and valid taxonomic description.

**Your responsibilities:**

- You will assist at sampling campaigns
- You will oversee all cultivation attempts with parttime help from a technician
- You will oversee and perform in-depth characterization of obtained strains in multiple collaborations
- You will explore biotechnological usability of obtained strains
- Work on a scientific qualification project: doctorate
- Writing and publishing scientific papers in (high-impact) peer-reviewed journals
- Presenting results at national and international conferences

**Your profile**

- M.Sc. degree in microbiology, biotechnology, or similar fields is necessary; candidates expected to earn their degree by September 2021 are welcome to apply
- Solid knowledge of culturing elusive microbes such as Planctomycetes is expected
- Experience with either reactor-based enrichment of Planctomycetes or the cultivation of aerobic Planctomycetes is needed; experience with taxonomic characterization and valid publication of strains would be desirable but are not mandatory
- Excellent English communication skills, both written and spoken, are desirable
- Enthusiasm to play an active role in the interdisciplinary research team of AquaDiva
- Highly motivated and creative individuals with an interest to shape their own thesis project
- Readiness and ability to work in the field
- Driver’s license would be advantageous
We offer:

- A doctoral researcher position with generous research funding and the possibility of research stays abroad
- Participation in a strongly interdisciplinary research project and diverse experimental and theoretical approaches, combined with the opportunity for research on an innovative and unique Critical Zone research platform
- A communicative atmosphere within an international scientific network of universities and research institutes providing top-level research facilities, equipment, and infrastructure
- A comprehensive mentoring programme with supervision by a team of advisors and qualification and development measures in the frame of the IRTG AquaDiva and embedded with the Jena Graduate Academy
- A family-friendly working environment with a variety of offers for families, and University health promotion including a wide range of University sports activities
- Remuneration based on the provisions of the Collective Agreement for the Public Sector of the Federal States (TV-L) at salary scale E13 — depending on the candidate's personal qualifications—, including a special annual payment in accordance with the collective agreement

The position is initially limited to 3 years, with the possibility of extension to end of June 2025. This is a part-time position with 65% of the working hours of a full-time employee (26 hours per week). The project is supervised by Prof. Dr. Christian Jogler and PD Dr. Torsten Schubert; the place of work will be Jena – City of Science.

FSU Jena and CRC AquaDiva seek to increase the number of women in those research areas where they are underrepresented and therefore explicitly encourage women to apply. Candidates with severe disabilities will be given preference in the case of equal qualifications and suitability.

Are you eager to work for us? Then submit your application, addressed to Prof. Dr. Christian Jogler and stating the vacancy ID 171/2021, by 20 June 2021 to our online application portal at https://crc-aquadiva.freshteam.com/jobs.

All applications should be in English and include (in one PDF file, max. size 15 MB) at least the following:
1. Cover letter (max. 1 page, describing your motivation, research interests, and relevant experiences)
2. Curriculum vitae (max. 2 pages, including contact details of at least two scientific references)
3. Scans of certificates, diplomas, and other (e.g., Master’s and Bachelor’s certificate – if not in English or German, please provide a translation)

Selected applicants will be invited for a short presentation and a personal interview with the project leader/s at our online recruitment symposium, presumably in July/August 2021.

Queries concerning the application process should be directed to the IRTG coordinator, Dr. Anke Hädrich (aquadiva-recruitment@uni-jena.de); for project-related questions, please contact Prof. Dr. Christian Jogler (christian.jogler@uni-jena.de).

More project details can be found at www.aquadiva.uni-jena.de/Open_Positions.html.

For further information for applicants, please also refer to www4.uni-jena.de/stellenmarkt_hinweis.html (in German)
Please also note the information on the collection of personal data at www4.uni-jena.de/en/jobs_information_collecting_personal_data.html.