

MBB

Membrane Biochemistry and Biophysics

The group **Membrane Biochemistry & Biophysics** at the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Sciences, Bijvoet Center for Biomolecular Research and Institute of Biomembranes at Utrecht University, invites applicants for a PhD position on a project entitled: “**Exploring polymer-bounded nanodiscs: towards new applications in membrane research**”. The project is funded by the Division of Chemical Sciences (CW) of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) via an ECHO-grant.

Job description

A recent discovery in membrane research is the ability of synthetic amphipathic polymers of styrene and maleic acid to solubilize membranes in the form of nanodiscs. These “native nanodiscs” form a promising new tool to study membrane proteins. In this project you will use well-defined model membrane systems as well as biological membranes to study the importance of chemical and physical properties of the polymers for the efficiency of solubilization and for properties of the resulting nanodiscs, such as size, homogeneity, stability and lipid packing. In addition you will explore novel applications of SMA-bounded nanodiscs as platform to study membrane proteins and protein/lipid interactions.

Qualifications

You are highly motivated and have a strong interest in membrane research. You have recently obtained a M.Sc. (or equivalent degree) in Chemistry or in Molecular Life Sciences and you have expertise and interest in biochemistry, physical chemistry and organic chemistry.

Conditions of employment

The successful candidate is offered a full-time position for a maximum of 4 years. Conditions are based on the Collective Labour Agreement Dutch Universities. For more information on conditions of employment click on the [UU website](#).

Further Details

Additional information about the vacancy can be obtained from: Prof.dr. Antoinette Killian, phone: +31 30-253 3442; e-mail: j.a.killian@uu.nl.

How to apply

Please submit applications (including a letter of motivation, CV and contact details of at least two references) before **September 8, 2017** via Academic Transfer (<https://www.academictransfer.com/employer/UU/vacancy/41773/lang/en/>)