

The **Jena School for Microbial Communication (JSMC)** is funded by the German **Excellence Initiative**. It conceptionally combines different research areas (microbial communities, interactions with plant, animal and human hosts and environmental interactions) to a comprehensive picture of microbial communication (www.jsmc.uni-jena.de). The **International Leibniz Research School for Microbial and Biomolecular Interactions (ILRS Jena)** is one of three Research Training Groups embedded in the Graduate School of Excellence 'JSMC'. The research training program of the ILRS Jena focuses on the topics interactions between microorganisms, host / microbial pathogen interactions, and the role of networks and bioinformatics (www.ilrs.hki-jena.de).

JSMC invites applications for a

PhD Student Position (Ref.No. JSMC-43/2009) on the topic

Elucidation of Complex Biosynthetic Pathways in Microorganisms

The aim of the project is to explore the biosynthetic potential of selected bacteria and fungi, with focus on yet little explored microbial sources and cryptic pathways, i.e. encoded by genes that are silent under standard conditions. In addition, enzymes mediating intriguing biosynthetic steps are studied to engineer the production of novel compounds or to complement chemical synthesis.

We expect:

- a Master's degree (or equivalent) in Microbiology, Biochemistry or Chemistry. Candidates about to earn their degree are welcome to apply.
- Applicants with a strong background in biochemistry, pharmacology or chemistry who are interested in interdisciplinary research are particularly welcomed
- high motivation and interest to join one of the interdisciplinary research areas of JSMC
- creativity and interest to shape your own thesis project
- an integrative and cooperative personality
- very good communication skills in English (instruction language at JSMC)

We offer:

- a highly communicative atmosphere within a scientific network providing top-level research conditions
- PhD student funding for 3 years as well as generous research funding
- a comprehensive mentoring program with efficient supervision by a team of supervisors
- courses in novel technologies and soft skills
- Jena – the **German City of Science 2008**: a young and lively city with dynamic business activities, successful scientific centres of innovation and a vibrant cultural scene around the famous Friedrich Schiller University

Friedrich Schiller University Jena is an equal opportunity employer.

The application procedure is handled online exclusively via the JSMC website

www.jsmc.uni-jena.de

To apply, please acquaint yourself with the vacant PhD projects and the application process described on this website. Applications can only be considered upon timely receipt of the completed 'Statement of Interest' form submitted by email to apply-jsmc@uni-jena.de.

Selected applicants will be invited to a JSMC Recruitment Meeting in Jena, Germany, in December 2009. Awarding decisions will be made shortly thereafter, allowing for an immediate start of the PhD projects.

Application deadline (submission of the completed 'Statement of Interest' form):

For applicants requiring visa to attend the recruitment meeting: **Deadline September 28, 2009**

(Invitations will be sent out approx. 5 weeks before the meeting to allow enough time for the visa application)



For applicants not requiring a visa: **Deadline October 19, 2009**

(Here, invitations will be sent out approx. 2 weeks before the meeting. If you are not German or EU-national, please provide a statement, why a notification 2 weeks ahead will be sufficient for you to be able to attend the JSMC Recruitment Meeting; otherwise your application can not be considered after Sep 28, 2009)