

**Recruitment for the Poznań Doctoral School of the Institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences
at the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, PAS in Poznań
Procedure no. 12/2025/ICHB/PSD**

INSTITUTION: Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, PAS
CITY: Poznań
POSITION: PhD student
POSITIONS AVAILABLE: 1
SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINE: biological sciences
PUBLICATION DATE: 10.06.2025
APPLICATION DEADLINE: 03.08.2025
IBCH PAS WEBSITE: <https://portal.ichb.pl/homepage/>
PDS IPAS WEBSITE: <https://psd-ipan.ichb.pl/index.php/en/home/>

KEY WORDS: WRKY transcription factors, W box, DNA binding, DNA sequence recognition, plant defense response, plant stress, protein crystallography, cryo-electron microscopy

Research topic: Structural and functional studies of plant transcription factors

Principal Investigator: Marta Grzechowiak, PhD

I. Project description:

Do you want to contribute to combating the effects of climate change through research at the intersection of molecular biology, biophysics and agriculture of tomorrow? Are you interested in proteins, DNA and plant immunity? Join our young and dynamic team and embark on an interdisciplinary research project!

WRKY transcription factors — plant-specific proteins — play a pivotal role in regulating genes that respond to environmental stresses and pathogens. Although all WRKYs recognize the same DNA motif (“W-box,” sequence TTGAC(C/T)), the mechanisms behind their target selectivity and the full three-dimensional structure of WRKY–DNA complexes remain unknown.

Our project aims to elucidate the structure and mode of action of WRKY proteins from *Arabidopsis thaliana* using cutting-edge structural biology techniques such as cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) and X-ray crystallography, complemented by biophysical analyses and DNA-binding assays including electromobility shift assay (EMSA), isothermal titration calorimetry (ITC), and bio-layer interferometry (BLI).

This work has both fundamental value — advancing our understanding of plant physiology and gene regulation — and practical applications: it may direct the development of stress-resistant crops and enable precision genetic engineering.

We offer access to state-of-the-art research infrastructure (cryo-EM, spectroscopy, protein–DNA interaction analysis), substantive support at every stage of the project, opportunities to advance your skills through instrument training workshops, friendly work environment, chances to present your findings at conferences and to co-author scientific publications.

Additional information:

1. Research and doctoral theses shall be carried out within the project OPUS 27 no. 2024/53/B/NZ9/04029 entitled “Molecular basis of the function of WRKY transcription factors as pivotal regulators of plant responses to stress”, funded by *National Science Center*

2. PhD students shall receive a stipend in the gross amount of ca. 4300 PLN (3800 PLN net) for the period of 48 months with the possibility of increasing the amount of the stipend after the mid-term evaluation (in accordance with the current regulation of the Minister - 5340.90 PLN gross).
3. PhD students shall be subject to social insurance, pursuant to article. 6 section 1 passage 7b of the act of October 13th, 1998 on the social insurance system (Journal of Laws of 2019, item 300, 303 and 730).
4. Access to a Multisport card, group insurance, and social benefits (subsidized vacation leave and reimbursement of tickets to cultural events).

II. Requirements for the candidates:

1. MSc degree in biology, biotechnology or a related field, or fulfilling the conditions stipulated in article 186, section 2 of the act of July 20th, 2018 Law on Higher Education and Science (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 1668, as amended).
2. Experience in laboratory work in the field of molecular biology and biochemistry.
3. Experience in protein–DNA interaction assays or genetic engineering methods is desirable.
4. Good knowledge of basic issues in molecular biology, biochemistry and genetics.
5. Interest in the project topic.
6. Good work organization.
7. Ability to independently solve research problems, communication skills, enthusiasm for experimental work and the ability to work effectively in a team.
8. Proficiency in English, sufficient for effective communication and preparation of scientific manuscripts.

III. Duties in project:

1. Planning and conducting experiments as part of the project, and analyzing results:
 - Designing genetic constructs, cloning, DNA isolation, PCR;
 - Protein production;
 - Protein–DNA interaction studies (EMSA, BLI);
 - Structural studies (crystallization of proteins and protein–DNA complexes; preparation of cryo-EM samples);
 - Participation in synchrotron data collection;
 - Processing structural data and preparing deposits in the PDB.
2. Contributing to the preparation of scientific publications.
3. Reviewing and analyzing scientific literature relevant to the project.
4. Presenting results at seminars and scientific conferences.

IV. Required documents:

1. Application for admission to PDS IPAS along with the consent for processing personal data upon the recruitment procedure and a statement on having acknowledged the regulations of recruitment for PDS IPAS, using form downloaded from: [IBCH Application for admission](#)
Applications without the aforementioned constant will not be considered.
2. Certified copy of the diploma confirming graduation or a certificate confirming graduation (in the case of diplomas issued by foreign higher education schools - the diploma entitling to apply for conferment of a doctoral degree in the state of origin). Additional information on foreign school diplomas are available at: <https://nawa.gov.pl/en/recognition/recognition-for-academic-purposes/applying-for-admission-to-doctoral-studies>. If a document that raises doubts is submitted, the application will not be considered because the time required for its verification would make it impossible to complete the competition within the set deadline. **We recommend a submission of the Individual Recognition Statement**, obtained from the SYRENA system or

another government institution, such as the Regional Authentication Center, **which can significantly speed up the recruitment process.**

3. The candidate will be obliged to present the originals of the aforementioned documents before or on the day of commencement of the education at the doctoral school PDS IPAS.
4. Scientific CV encompassing track record of previous education and employment, information on involvement in scientific activities (participation in student research groups, attendance at scientific conferences, accomplished internships and training, awarded prizes and distinction) and list of publications.
5. Cover letter featuring a short description of research interests, achievements and justification for the intention to commence education at the doctoral school.
6. Certificates or other documents confirming the degree of proficiency in English, if the candidate is in possession of such materials.
7. Contact details of at least one, previous scientific supervisor or another researcher who is entitled to issue an opinion on the candidate.

V. Applications should be submitted via the eRecruiter portal at:

<https://system.erecruiter.pl/FormTemplates/RecruitmentForm.aspx?WebID=5e1e38e7bdb24ca5b7c4b77a9add351f>

VI. Submission deadline is **03.08.2025**.

VII. Criteria for evaluation of candidates:

1. Candidate's research achievements, pursuant to the grades obtained in the course of studies, scientific publications, awarded scholarships and distinctions resulting from conducting scientific research or student activities or other achievements.
2. Candidate's scientific and professional experience, pursuant to participation in conferences, workshops, training sessions and internships, implementation of research and commercial projects, involvement in scientific trusts and societies, international and professional mobility, experience in other sectors, including industry.
3. Candidate's knowledge on the following discipline: Biological sciences.
4. Knowledge of the subject matter described in the recruitment advertisement.

VIII. The recruitment procedure shall be concluded no later than **15.09.2025**.

The results of recruitment will be announced at the PDS IPAS website: <https://psd-ipan.ichb.pl/index.php/en/home/>

IX. The description of the recruitment process is stipulated in the Regulations of Recruitment for PDS IPAS, to be found on the PDS IPAS website. Following the recruitment procedure, the unadmitted candidates will be informed on the number of points obtained at both stages.

For additional information please contact the Principal Investigator:

Marta Grzechowiak, PhD

e-mail: mgrzech@ibch.poznan.pl

Information clause:

Pursuant to the stipulations of the regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), further referred to as GDPR, we hereby inform that:

- *The Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences, seated in Noskowskiego St. 12/14, 61-704 Poznan; REGON 000849327, NIP 777-00-02-062 is the administrator of the collected personal data (further referred to as the Institute).*
- *The Administrator appointed a Data Protection Officer, who can be contacted in writing, via traditional mail, by sending a letter to the following address: Z. Noskowskiego St. 12/14, 61-704 Poznan, or by sending an e-mail to: dpo@ibch.poznan.pl.*
- *The personal data of the candidates is processed for the purposes of fulfilling the tasks of the administrator, associated with conducting the recruitment procedure for a vacant position.*
- *The legal basis for processing personal data is the Act of 26 June 1974 – The Labor Code, Act of 30 April 2010 on the Polish Academy of Sciences or the consent of the person whose data shall be subjected to processing.*
- *Your personal data shall be subjected to processing for period of 3 months upon the date of decision of the recruitment committee. Following this period, the data will be irretrievably and effectively destroyed.*
- *The personal data of the candidates shall not be transferred to any third country.*
- *The person whose data shall be subjected to processing has the right to:*
 - *request access to his/her personal data, and to amend it or delete it, pursuant to articles 15-17 of GDPR;*
 - *limit data processing, in the events stipulated in article 18 of GDPR;*
 - *data transferring, pursuant to article 20 of GDPR;*
 - *withdraw consent at any moment, without influencing compliance with the law of the processing that was executed prior to consent withdrawal;*
 - *file a complaint to the Inspector General for Personal Data Protection.*

Providing personal data in the scope stipulated in article 22 (1) of the Act of 26 June 1974 – The Labor Code is mandatory, whereas providing data in a broader scope is voluntary and requires consent for its processing.

Protection for whistleblowers

In the case of reporting violations using a dedicated system for whistleblowers, the reporting person's data will be processed in accordance with applicable provisions on the protection of personal data, including the above-mentioned Regulation (EU 2016/679 of 27 April 2016). We ensure confidentiality and protection of the identity of reporting persons, and that their data will not be disclosed without their consent, unless the law provides otherwise.

Detailed rules regarding the protection of personal data and procedures for reporting violations of the law can be found in our Regulations on internal reporting at the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences, available at the link:

<https://portal.ichb.pl/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/INTERNALREPORTINGREGULATIONS.pdf>