

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

The Dean of the Faculty of Biology, with the consent of the Rector of the University of Warsaw, announces a competition for the position of Assistant Professor in the programme/project/initiative: "Identification of novel antigens of *Borrelia miyamotoi* and their significance in the differential diagnosis of Lyme borreliosis and relapsing fevers".

About the programme/project/initiative:

Title of the programme/project/initiative	Identification of novel antigens of <i>Borrelia miyamotoi</i> and their significance in the differential diagnosis of Lyme borreliosis and relapsing fevers.
Type of the programme/project/initiative	OPUS-28
Funding institution	National Science Centre
Duration of the programme/project/initiative	48 months
Leader of the programme/project/initiative	dr hab. Renata Welc-Falęciak prof. ucz.
Description of the programme/project/initiative	Lyme borreliosis (LB) is the most commonly diagnosed tick-borne disease in Europe. At least five species of <i>Borrelia</i> from the LB complex cause infections in humans. In recent years, a new species, <i>Borrelia miyamotoi</i>, has been identified in Europe as an etiological agent of tick-borne relapsing fever, known as miyamotoi borreliosis (MB). The main vector for both <i>B. burgdorferi</i> and <i>B. miyamotoi</i> in Europe is the tick <i>Ixodes ricinus</i>. Despite the increasing number of human cases, little is still known about the ecology and epidemiology of these bacteria. Because <i>B. burgdorferi</i> sensu lato and <i>B. miyamotoi</i> share a common vector—the castor bean tick (<i>Ixodes ricinus</i>)—Lyme borreliosis and <i>Borrelia miyamotoi</i> diseases often occur in the same geographical areas and present with similar, non-specific symptoms, which complicates differential diagnosis. Current laboratory tests for MB rely mainly on molecular biology techniques; however, standardized diagnostic tests are lacking. The present project aims to identify new diagnostic markers for MB that could be employed in future medical diagnostic assays. By using phage display peptide library technology, epitopes highly reactive with IgM and IgG antibodies isolated from sera of mice and humans infected with <i>B. miyamotoi</i> will be selected. The diagnostic potential of the selected peptides will be tested with sera from mice immunized with various infectious doses of <i>B. miyamotoi</i> at defined time points of infection (acute and chronic phases), as well as with sera from mice immunized with different <i>Borrelia</i> species. Such discoveries will provide a foundation for future evaluation of the clinical utility of selected antigens for the early

	detection of MB in humans and for distinguishing MB from LB or relapsing febrile infections in endemic regions.

About the Position:

Position title	Assistant Professor
Organizational unit	Faculty of Biology
Employee group	Research
Position profile ¹	R2
Scientific discipline ²	Biological sciences
Number of positions	1
Type of employment & workload	Full-time employment contract
Expected start date & employment duration	Employment starting from 01.12.2025, for 48 months.
Salary	Base salary of 8000 PLN gross/month plus a 13th salary and seniority allowance.
Other work conditions	- Place of work: Department of Parasitology, Institute of Experimental Zoology, Faculty of Biology - Career development opportunities: more information is available on the UW Human Resources Office website.
Primary responsibilities	- Conducting scientific research in biological sciences and publishing findings in international scientific journals. - Securing research funding. - Fulfilling other academic teacher responsibilities as required by employment at the University of Warsaw. <i>More details:</i> General scope of duties for academic teachers. <u><i>Responsibilities under the project:</i></u> - Work with laboratory animals – <i>in vivo</i> models of bacterial infection dynamics (appropriate permits required). - Implementation and optimization of serological diagnostic methods. - Implementation of the ‘phage display’ technology and support for the PhD student conducting experiments using this method. - Documentation and analysis of experimental results in accordance with the research plan. - Collaboration with other members of the research team in carrying out project tasks; contribution to the supervision and scientific support of less experienced project participants (e.g. students, PhD candidates). - Participation in the preparation of scientific publications and presentation of research results at national and international conferences.

¹ To be completed only in the case of a competition for a position in the group of research or research-and-teaching staff.

² To be completed only in the case of a competition for a position in the group of research or research-and-teaching staff.

Eligibility criteria ³	Candidates must: • Meet the requirements specified in Article 113 of the Law on Higher Education and Science (Journal of Laws 2024, item 1571, consolidated text). • Hold a Ph.D. degree in biological sciences or a related field obtained before the application deadline. • Have significant scientific achievements documented by well-cited publications in renowned international journals, invitations to deliver lectures or seminars, etc. • Have international experience, e.g.: participation in international conferences, engagement in international research projects, international collaborations documented by joint publications. • Submit a research plan outlining personal scientific development. • Research competencies in the field of: ○ Demonstrated practical experience in molecular biology and serology techniques (including cloning, PCR, RT-PCR, droplet digital PCR, Western blot, immunofluorescence, ELISA). ○ Documented experience in working with laboratory animals and possession of valid authorizations/permits. ○ Proven knowledge of the 'phage display' technology and its practical application in parasitology. <i>If hired, the University of Warsaw must be <u>the primary place of employment</u> for the candidate.</i>
Additional expectations ⁴	• Experience in individual work with students (e.g., supervising theses) and science popularization activities. • Research mobility, e.g., a fellowship at a prestigious foreign research institution. • Experience in securing research funding. • Good work organization, punctuality, and communication skills. • Proficiency in English. • Due to contact with patients, knowledge of Polish will be considered an additional asset. • In accordance with the regulations of the National Science Centre (NCN), the doctoral degree must be obtained in the year of employment in the project or within 12 years prior to 1 January of the year of employment in the project.
Candidate evaluation criteria	• Quality of the publication record and, if applicable, patent output. • Success in securing research funding. • Originality of research plans and the potential for developing research within the Faculty of Biology, including opportunities for collaboration with existing research teams. • Research experience in the subject area of the project. • Result of the interview with shortlisted candidates. • References and other information obtained during the recruitment process.

The position involves work related/not related⁵ to activities under child protection regulations.

³ Requirements specified by the Law on Higher Education and Science and the Statute of the University of Warsaw, as well as those necessary for the position.

⁴ Additional conditions whose non-fulfillment does not result in a negative formal assessment.

⁵ Remove the unnecessary part.

Call guidelines:

Reference number of the announcement	WB-KG-17/2025
Keywords	Biological sciences
Application deadline ⁶	30.10.2025
How to apply	Send applications via email to Project leader dr hab. Renata Welc-Falęciak r.welc-faleciak@uw.edu.pl and the Faculty Dean's Office: dziekanat.biol@uw.edu.pl Candidates will receive an email confirmation of document submission. If no confirmation is received, please contact the project leader.
Required documents	• Personal questionnaire – available on the Faculty of Biology UW website. • Motivation letter including description of scientific interests and research activity plan. <i>Ensure the completeness of your application and submit it by the deadline. Failure to meet these requirements will result in rejection on formal grounds.</i>

This competition is the first stage of the recruitment process. Please familiarize yourself with the open, transparent, and merit-based recruitment policy at the University of Warsaw: [link](#)

Expected date and method of announcing the competition results	Interviews will take place 10-12.11.2025. Candidates will be individually notified about their interview schedule with the selection committee. Candidates will be informed of the results via email by 14.11.2025.
Contact for inquiries	Project leader dr hab. Renata Welc-Falęciak r.welc-faleciak@uw.edu.pl (please include the announcement reference number). Applicants requiring accessibility accommodations should indicate their needs in the personal questionnaire, under the section: <i>Other important information from the candidate</i>.

About the Faculty / hiring unit:

Research profile of the Faculty	The Faculty conducts research across a broad range of biological sciences disciplines. More details are available on the Faculty website .
Teaching profile of the Faculty	The Faculty offers degree programs in <i>Biology</i> and <i>Biotechnology</i> and co-organizes programs in <i>Nature Conservation</i> and <i>Bioinformatics & Systems Biology</i> .
Other information	More details can be found on the Faculty website .

The University of Warsaw follows a whistleblower procedure for reporting legal violations and taking follow-up actions. More information, including data protection policies, is available online: [link](#)

The University of Warsaw holds the HR Excellence in Research award from the European Commission, recognizing institutions that comply with the European Charter for Researchers.



⁶ No earlier than 30 days from the date of the announcement's publication.

