UNIWERSYTET WARSZAWSKI

WYDZIAŁ BIOLOGII · UNIWERSYTET WARSZAWSKI

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[1] in project:

About the project

Title of the project	Temperature-dependent predation as an ultimate driver shaping the relationship between temperature and body size in ectothermic organisms
Type of the project	OPUS-29
Funding institution	National Science Center (NCN), Poland
Duration of the project	48 months
Leader of the project	Dr Piotr Maszczyk
Description of the project	Body size is a key trait determining the biological functioning of ectothermic organisms. Under conditions of global warming, it is particularly important to understand why these organisms grow faster but reach smaller adult sizes at higher temperatures, in accordance with the temperature–size rule (TSR). This phenomenon is usually explained by physiological constraints (e.g. oxygen or energy limitation) or by adaptive shifts in life-history strategies, such as earlier reproduction. The project aims to test an alternative hypothesis, according to which TSR may result from an adaptive response to predation pressure that increases with temperature. The research will begin with a model predator–prey system: planktivorous fish and *Daphnia*. Using multigenerational experiments, we will assess whether changes in *Daphnia* life-history traits result from physiological constraints or from adaptive responses supported by molecular and epigenetic mechanisms, and whether high temperature induces responses similar to those triggered by predators. In the next stage, the project will be expanded to other aquatic and terrestrial predator–prey systems in order to evaluate the universality of the proposed mechanism. The results will contribute to a better understanding of the mechanisms underlying the temperature–size rule and will be relevant for predicting the impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

[1] The nouns used in the announcement apply to people of all genders

About the Position:

Position title	Assistant Professor
Organizational unit	Faculty of Biology
Employee group	Research staff
Position profile [2]	R2
Scientific discipline [3]	Biological sciences
Number of positions	1
Type of employment & workload	Full-time employment contract
Expected start date & employment duration	Employment from April 2026 for 24 months.
Salary	Base salary of approximately 9,400 PLN gross per month, plus a 13th salary and seniority allowance.
Other work conditions	• Place of work: Institute of Ecology • Career development opportunities: more information is available on the UW Human Resources Office website.
Primary responsibilities	☐ Conducting scientific research within the scope of the project and publishing results in internationally recognised scientific journals. ☐ Obtaining external research funding. ☐ Other duties of an academic teacher arising from employment at the University of Warsaw. *More details*: General scope of duties for academic teachers.
Eligibility criteria[4]	☐ Fulfilment of the requirements set out in Article 113 of the Act on Higher Education and Science (Journal of Laws 2024, item 1571, consolidated text). ☐ PhD degree in biological sciences/ecology or a related discipline, obtained in the year of employment in the project or within 7 years prior to 1 January of the year of employment in the project. ☐ Scientific achievements documented by publications in reputable international journals. ☐ International experience (e.g. participation in international conferences, international collaboration documented by publications, or participation in projects conducted in an international environment). ☐ Submission of a research plan outlining further scientific activity, including the candidate's own scientific development related to the project topic. **Research competences (at least one of the following is required):** ☐ Experience in experiments on aquatic organisms (particularly *Daphnia*/zooplankton) and/or predator–prey systems, including the design and conduct of multifactorial experiments (e.g. temperature × predation

[2] To be completed only in the case of a competition for a position in the group of research or research-and-teaching staff.
[3] To be completed only in the case of a competition for a position in the group of research or research-and-teaching staff.
[4] 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.

	pressure / predator cues). □ Experience in molecular methods and omics analyses (e.g. microbiome / metagenomics / transcriptomics, NGS library preparation, high-throughput data analysis). □ Experience in statistical analysis of experimental and ecological data (including multivariate analyses and integration of ecological and molecular data). *If hired, the University of Warsaw must be the primary place of employment for the candidate.*
Additional expectations[5]	□ Very good command of English (spoken and written). □ Good work organisation, proactive attitude, and ability to solve research problems independently. □ Research mobility (e.g. research stay or collaboration with a foreign institution) – an asset.
Candidate evaluation criteria	□ Quality of publication record (including relevance to the project topic). □ Research experience in the project area: ecology and evolution of ectothermic organisms, temperature–size rule (*TSR*), physiological and/or adaptive mechanisms, predator–prey systems, *Daphnia*, microbiota and molecular/epigenetic mechanisms, omics analyses.
The position involves work not related[6] to activities under child protection regulations.	

Call guidelines:

Reference number of the announcement	WB-KG-2/2026
Keywords	*Daphnia*, zooplankton, temperature–size rule (*TSR*), warming, predation risk, predator cues, life-history evolution, freshwater ecology, gut microbiota, microbiome, epigenetics, transcriptomics, NGS, multi-omics, statistical modelling, meta-analysis.
Application deadline[7]	30 March 2026
How to apply	Please submit your application by email to p.maszczyk@uw.edu.pl and to the Faculty Dean's Office: dziekanat.biol@uw.edu.pl. Candidates will receive an email confirming receipt of the submitted documents. If you do not receive a confirmation, 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. *Ensure the completeness of your application and submit it by the deadline. Failure to meet these requirements will result in rejection on formal grounds.*
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*	

[5] Additional conditions whose non-fulfillment does not result in a negative formal assessment.
[6] Remove the unnecessary part.
[7] No earlier than 30 days from the date of the announcement's publication.

Expected date and method of announcing the competition results	Interviews will be conducted in the first half of April 2026. Candidates will be informed individually about the interview date. Applicants will be notified of the competition outcome by email by 15 April 2026.
Contact for inquiries	Email: p.maszczyk@uw.edu.pl (please include call reference number). Applicants requiring accessibility accommodations should indicate their needs in the personal questionnaire, under the section: *Other important information from the candidate.*

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 *Biology* and *Biotechnology* and co-organizes programs in *Nature Conservation* and *Bioinformatics & Systems Biology*.
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.