## COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT

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 the project "Diversity, ecology, and interactions of Perkinsea parasitic protists in freshwater ecosystems".

**About the programme/project/undertaking:**

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| Title of project | Diversity, ecology, and interactions of Perkinsea parasitic protists in freshwater ecosystems | |
| Type of project | OPUS_LAP 59 | |
| Funding institution | National Science Centre, Poland | |
| Duration of project | 1.01.2027 - 31.12.2029 | |
| Head of project | Dr hab. Anna Karnkowska, prof. ucz. | |
| Description of project | The project investigates the diversity, ecology, and host–parasite interactions of **Perkinsea**, a diverse and widespread group of unicellular eukaryotic parasites that are particularly abundant in freshwater ecosystems but remain poorly understood. We will study Perkinsea communities across lakes of the Masurian Lakeland in northeastern Poland, spanning environmental gradients from relatively pristine to strongly human-impacted habitats. The project will combine **field sampling, long-read metabarcoding, CARD-FISH, network analyses, single-cell transcriptomics, phylogenomics, and laboratory infection experiments** to determine which Perkinsea lineages occur in freshwater, what hosts they infect, how they interact with their hosts, and what ecological roles they play. By linking parasite diversity and abundance with environmental conditions and host populations, the project will provide new insights into the role of parasitism in freshwater ecosystems and how anthropogenic pressures may influence these interactions. | |

**Position details:**

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| Position title | Assistant Professor |
| Organisational unit | Faculty of Biology |
| Employment group | Research |
| Position profile[2] | R2 |
| Academic discipline[3] | Biological sciences |
| Number of positions | 1 |
| Form of employment and length of working time (proportionally to full-time employment) | Full-time employment contract |

[1] The nouns used in the announcement apply to people of all genders
[2] Complete only in the case of competition for the position in the research employment group or the research and teaching employment group.
[3] Complete only in the case of competition for the position in the research employment group or the research and teaching employment group.

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| Expected date of commencement of work and employment period | Employment starting from 01.03.2027, for a maximum of 36 months |
| Remuneration | Basic remuneration PLN ~9900 gross/month plus the additional annual remuneration, allowance for years of service. More information: *link* |
| Other working conditions | – Workplace: Institute of Evolutionary Biology, Faculty of Biology<br>– Career opportunities: More information: *link* |
| Basic responsibilities and obligations | – Conducting scientific research in biological sciences and publishing findings in international scientific journals.<br>– Securing research funding.<br>– Fulfilling other academic teacher responsibilities as required by employment at the University of Warsaw.<br>*More information:* Scope of responsibilities of the academic teacher |
| Conditions for entering the competition[4] | – *Fulfill the requirements set out in Article 113 of the Law on Higher Education and Science (Journal of Laws of 2024, item 1571, consolidated text)*<br>– Hold a Ph.D. degree in biological sciences or a related field obtained before the application deadline.<br>– Have significant scientific achievements documented by well-cited publications in renowned international journals, invitations to deliver lectures or seminars, etc.<br>– Have international experience, e.g.: participation in international conferences, engagement in international research projects, international collaborations documented by joint publications.<br>– Submit a research plan outlining personal scientific development.<br>– Research competencies in the field of:<br>o **Protistology and/or parasitology**, with experience in the study of microbial eukaryotes;<br>OR<br>o **Environmental biology/ecology and/or bioinformatics**, with experience in metabarcoding, environmental sequencing, or analysis of biological sequence data. |
| In addition, we expect[5] | – Experience in individual work with students (e.g., supervising theses) and science popularization activities.<br>– Research mobility, e.g., a fellowship at a prestigious foreign research institution.<br>– Experience in securing research funding.<br>– Experience in preparing scientific publications as the first author.<br>– Experience in field-based ecological or microbiological research, preferably in freshwater environments.<br>– Experience with metabarcoding and/or high-throughput sequencing<br>– Experience with bioinformatic and statistical analysis of biological data.<br>– Experience with phylogenetic and/or ecological network analyses.<br>– Experience working with microbial eukaryotes, protists, parasites, or environmental DNA would be an advantage.<br>– In accordance with the regulations of the National Science Center, a doctoral degree must have been obtained in the year of employment on the project or within the 12-year period preceding January 1 of the year of employment on the project.<br>*If hired, we expect the University of Warsaw to be the primary workplace for the successful candidate.* |

[4] Required by the Act, the Law on Higher Education and Science, the Statute of the University of Warsaw, as well as necessary for the position.
[5] Additional conditions to be met; however, not meeting them will not lead to a negative formal assessment.

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| Criteria for the assessment of candidates in a competition | – Quality of the publication record.<br>– Success in securing research funding.<br>– Originality of research plans and the potential for developing research within the Faculty of Biology, including opportunities for collaboration with existing research teams.<br>– Possession of the research competencies described in the section on eligibility requirements for the competition<br>– Demonstration that the candidate's profile meets the additional expectations described above |
| *Position ~~related~~/not related[6] to activities covered by the protection of minors.* | |

**Competition rules:**

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| Announcement reference number | **WB-KG-12/2026** |
| Keywords | ecology, phylogenetics, host-parasite interactions, microbial eukaryotes |
| Deadline for submitting applications[7] | 7th January 2027 |
| Method of submitting an application | Send applications via email to a.karnkowska@uw.edu.pl and the Faculty Dean's Office: dziekanat.biol@uw.edu.pl.<br>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*.<br>– Motivation letter including description of scientific interests and research activity plan.<br>*Ensure the completeness of your application and submit it by the deadline. Failure to meet these requirements will result in rejection on formal grounds.* Please, ensure that your application is complete and submitted by the deadline indicated! |
| The competition is the first stage of the recruitment process, please read the Policy of Open, Transparent and Merit-Based Recruitment at the University of Warsaw *link* | |
| Stages of competiton | *The competition consists of the following stages:*<br>– *Stage I - formal evaluation of documents,*<br>– *Stage II - substantive evaluation on the basis of submitted documents,*<br>– *Stage III - interview with selected candidates, during which the candidate will be required to give a short presentation on their previous achievements and career plans, followed by a Q&A session with members of the selection committee,*<br>– *Stage IV - final evaluation of competence, experience and scientific achievements,*<br>– *Stage V - adjudication of the competition and announcement of results.* |
| Anticipated date and method of notification of the competition outcomes | Interviews will take place between Januray 14 and 19, 2027. Candidates will be individually notified about their interview schedule with the selection committee.<br>Candidates will be informed of the results via email by 31st January 2027. |
| Contact for any questions relating to the competition | Via email: a.karnkowska@uw.edu.pl (please include the announcement reference number).<br>Accessibility needs should be indicated on the Candidate's Questionnaire, in: *Other relevant information from a candidate* |

**Employing faculty/unit:**

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| Research profile of faculty /unit | The Faculty conducts research across a broad range of biological sciences disciplines. More details are available on the *Faculty website*. |

[6] Delete as appropriate.
[7] Not sooner than 30 days from the date of publication of the announcement.

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| Teaching profile of faculty/ unit | 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 has implemented the procedure for whistleblowers reporting cases of law violation and for undertaking follow-up actions. For **more information** about this topic and the processing of candidates' personal data please follow the *link*

The University of Warsaw is a winner of the HR Excellence in Research award granted by the European Commission to institutions adhering to the European Charter for Researchers.