At the institute of Plant Biochemistry in the faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf a position as a

Team Leader (m/f/d) Plant Genome Engineering
(100 %, pay grade 13 TV-L)

is to be occupied at the earliest possible date. The employment is initially limited for a period of two years with an option for prolongation. It is a qualification position in the sense of the Act of Academic Fixed-Term Contract (Wissenschaftsvertragsgesetz – WissZeitVG), which is to promote the scientific qualification of the employee (m/f/d). Based on performance, the position can be extended without term-limits.

The Institute of Plant Biochemistry is member of the Cluster of Excellence on Plant Science (CEPLAS) and aims to identify the causes of variation in carbon assimilation pathways in plants and algae on a molecular level, with the aim to transfer photosynthetic (and other) traits between species. This requires complex and efficient procedures for the editing and engineering of plant and algae genomes at multiple sites and the application of advanced transformation procedures. Beyond its tasks in the context of the Institute of Plant Biochemistry, the Center will support and enable research activities in a broad range of plant science groups on the HHU campus.

Your tasks:
• Development and implementation of methods that aim at the targeted engineering of plant genomes, for example with programmable nucleases
• Development and application of novel and application of existing methods for stable and transient transformation of model and non-model plants
• Supervision and training of technical staff as well as B.Sc., M.Sc. and PhD students
• Contribution to teaching and training at the undergraduate and graduate levels
• Leading a team of research technicians
• Continuous expansion of the Center through the acquisition of extramural grants, integration with and support of research consortia, and through the development of collaborative research
• Contribution with her/his expertise to collaborative research projects of the Institute and of other CEPLAS groups on campus

Our requirements:
• A completed university education and PhD degree in the field of plant biology, plant biochemistry, plant molecular biology, plant biotechnology or a related discipline
• Profound knowledge and in-depth experience with in plant transformation and plant cell culture procedures (model and non-model species)
• Profound knowledge and in-depth experience with genome editing and engineering with programmable nucleases
• Proficiency in molecular genetics and molecular biology, including the conception and design of advanced cloning strategies
• Excellent communication skills in English (spoken and written) and experience in interdisciplinary communication
• High degree of self-initiative and individual responsibility
• Ability to lead a team of research technicians and student workers
• Preferably experience in the acquisition of extramural funds
• Ability to collaborate with a broad range of research teams on campus

We offer:
• An interdisciplinary working environment in an international team of plant scientists
• Active exchange and collaboration with partners from academia and industry in a field of constant technical and methodological development
• Very good possibility to establish an own research profile and the potential for permanent employment

The pay scale grouping will be, depending on the personal qualification of the applicant, up to pay grade 13 TV-L.

In principle, the employment can also take place part-time, if no compelling official reasons are opposed in an individual case.

Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf aims at increasing the percentage of employed women. Applications from women will therefore be given preference in cases of equal aptitude, ability and professional achievements unless there are exceptional reasons for choosing another applicant. Applications from suitably qualified severely disabled persons or disabled persons regarded as being of equal status according to Book IX of the German Social Code (SGB – Soziales Gesetzbuch) are encouraged.

Your contact person in case of questions is Prof. Dr. Andreas Weber; e-mail: andreas.weber@hhu.de.

Please submit your application documents (cover letter, curriculum vitae, contact info of two references, certificates, short (max. 1 DIN A4 page) concept for (i) a Center for Plant Genome Engineering and (ii) Management Strategies for the Genome Engineering Team) citing reference no. 103.20-3.1 until 31.03.2020 preferably by e-mail to: plantbiochem@hhu.de

or in printed version to:
Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf
Faculty of
Institute of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
Attn. Prof. Dr. Andreas Weber
Universitätsstr. 1
40225 Düsseldorf

Please do not submit application materials in folders and be sure to send copies only, as documents will not be returned (they will be destroyed after the selection procedure has been completed).