

ERC funded positions are available for highly motivated post-doctoral research associates working on the regulation and evolution of photosynthesis gene expression.

The work will use C_3 and C_4 plants to understand how gene expression is controlled in specific cells of multicellular organisms. By studying the ancestral C_3 , and derived C_4 states, it also aims to provide novel insights into the evolution of highly complex traits.

Successful applicants will join Professor Julian Hibberd's laboratory and be expected to develop ideas for their own research projects that build on existing resources generated by the laboratory. This could include populations showing natural variation in characteristics associated with C_4 photosynthesis; lines in which nuclei and ribosomes are tagged to allow isolation from specific cells of C_3 or C_4 leaves; the use of high-throughput sequencing technologies such as DNase1-Seq to identify genome-wide patterns of transcription factor binding, and bioinformatics analysis of these datasets to identify regulators of photosynthesis gene expression in each cell-type. Findings will be relevant to the evolution of multi-cellularity, the C_4 pathway and may impact on strategies being used to engineer enhanced photosynthesis in major crops.

The positions can start immediately. Successful candidates will have a strong background in plant genetics and/or molecular biology, including a PhD in a relevant area (or have submitted a PhD by the time of appointment). Experience of one or more of the following: genetics, genome-wide association mapping, synthetic biology, isolation of specific cell-types, and deep sequencing technologies and data interrogation will be advantageous. Information on the laboratory is available at www.hibberdlab.com.

If you have not yet been awarded your PhD you will initially be appointed as a Research Assistant, on the salary scale £25,023 - £28,982, with promotion to Research Associate on the higher salary scale £28,982 - £37,768 on confirmation of award of your PhD.

The positions will be based in the Department of Plant Sciences on the Downing Site in central Cambridge. Fixed-term: The funds for these posts are available for 3 years in the first instance.

To apply online for these vacancies, please click on the 'Apply' button below. This will route you to the University's Web Recruitment System, where you will need to register an account (if you have not already) and log in before completing the online application form.

Please notice that if you have not received any news from us 1 month after the closing date you should consider that on this occasion your application has not been successful.

The University values diversity and is committed to equality of opportunity. The University has a responsibility to ensure that all employees are eligible to live and work in the UK.

Please quote reference PD09923 on your application and in any correspondence.