



CeNT-37-2026

Director of the Centre of New Technologies of the University of Warsaw, with the Project Leader, announce opening of the competition for the position of PhD Student in the Laboratory of RNA Design and Therapeutics – Centre of New Technologies of the University of Warsaw.

JOB OFFER

Position in the project:	PhD Student
Laboratory:	Laboratory of RNA Design and Therapeutics
Scientific discipline:	Biology
Keywords:	RNA structure, deep learning, RNA-small molecule interactions, SELEX, RNA design
Job type (employment contract/stipend):	Stipend
Number of job offers:	1
Remuneration/stipend amount/month:	5000 - 6500 PLN (brutto brutto) ¹ 5000 PLN (brutto brutto) ²
Position starts on:	2026-10-1 or as soon as possible after the date
Maximum period of contract/stipend agreement:	36 months with possibility of extension 58 months
Institution:	Centre of New Technologies, University of Warsaw
Project leader:	Dr Marcin Magnus
Project title:	Harnessing deep learning for an understanding of RNA interactions with small molecules
NCN programme:	SONATA BIS 15
Project description:	This project applies deep learning to understand and predict RNA interactions with small molecules, a key challenge in RNA-targeted drug discovery. We will develop RNA language model-based methods for 3D structure prediction (OpenRNAFold) and extend the OpenRNADesign platform to generate RNA sequences and structures tailored to bind specific small molecules. Designed RNAs will be experimentally validated using SELEX and biochemical assays. The project combines computational innovation with wet-lab verification to advance the rational

¹ Doctoral stipend - for students admitted to the doctoral school outside the admission limit: PLN 5,093.08 per month (gross gross) for the first 24 months and, following a positive mid-term evaluation, PLN 6,446.04 per month (gross gross) for the remaining 12 months.

² Research stipend - for students admitted to a doctoral school within the admission limit: a scholarship of up to PLN 5,000 per month (gross gross), in addition to the doctoral scholarship paid by the doctoral school as indicated above.



	design of functional RNAs for therapeutic and biotechnological applications.
Key responsibilities include:	The successful candidate will work with a postdoc on deep learning methods and SELEX experiments and biochemical assays for RNA aptamer selection and validation. He/she will develop OpenRNAFold using language models, contribute to computational RNA design pipelines, perform experiments, interpret the results, participate in data analysis, write manuscripts, and prepare a PhD thesis.
Profile of candidates/requirements:	The competition is open for persons who meet the conditions specified in the regulations on the allocation of resources for the implementation of tasks financed by the National Science Centre for NCN Sonata BIS 15 grant. - Master's degree in computer science, bioinformatics, computational biology, or (optionally) cell/molecular biology, biochemistry (if strong computational skills are presented). If he/she is a more computational person, then a basic knowledge of molecular biology will be an advantage. The MSc degree should be obtained before the date of employment in the project. - Good command of English and organizational skills, sufficient to participate in work in an international environment. - Confirmed status of a PhD student (on the date of starting work in the project at the latest).
Required documents:	1. Cover letter; 2. Current curriculum vitae; 3. Copy of MSc certificate (or, if the MSc certificate has not been obtained yet, a certificate/document about the date of MSc defense); 4. Document confirming the status of PhD Student (to be provided before starting work in the project); 5. Signed information on the personal data processing. Before entering the competition, candidates are obliged to familiarise themselves with Internal Reporting Procedure.
We offer:	Work in a highly interdisciplinary environment at the Centre of New Technologies (CeNT), University of Warsaw, on a project with high potential impact for the next generation of RNA-based therapeutics and biotechnological tools.
Please submit the following documents to:	E-mail: m.magnus@cent.uw.edu.pl with the competition number 'CeNT-37-2026' as the e-mail title.
Application deadline:	2026-09-13
Date of announcing the results:	2026-09-23
Method of notification about the results:	CeNT website