
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Position for MSCA-funded PhD fellowship

Position:	Special Scientist (Research)
No. of Positions:	One (1)
Category:	On contract basis for 34 months
Location:	University of Cyprus, Nicosia

The University of Cyprus (www.ucy.ac.cy) invites applications for one (1) Special Scientist (Research) to work in the **Laboratory of Epigenetics** to pursue a Doctorate (PhD) degree. The researcher will be working full-time on the project NUCLEAR funded by a **Marie Skłodowska Curie Action (MSCA) Doctoral Network** of European Commission under the Horizon Europe framework programme. NUCLEAR will bring together European leaders in metabolomics, functional genomics, chromatin regulation, stem cell biology, and cancer with innovators in precision nutrition, mass spectrometry technologies, and drug development. The project aims to develop tools for the detection and characterisation of nuclear metabolism, to understand how metabolism regulates functions of the chromatin template and to test metabolism-chromatin interactions as targetable vulnerabilities in cancer cells (<https://nuclear-dn.eu>).

The researcher working in the Laboratory of Epigenetics at UCY will focus on project DC15 (<https://nuclear-dn.eu/projects/project15/>) which aims to decipher **“The role of histone metabolic reservoirs in liver cancer”**. We have recently illuminated a novel function for acetylated histones whereby they can serve as acetate reservoirs and fuel other metabolic pathways such as lipid synthesis. During this project the successful candidate will test whether cancer cells are dependent on these acetate reservoirs and determine whether they represent a potential targetable vulnerability in liver cancer. The project provides excellent opportunities for training and research at the crossroad of epigenetics and metabolism, with scheduled secondments in academia and industry.

Eligibility Criteria

We welcome applications to undertake a PhD in cancer research, fulfilling the following criteria:

- The successful applicant should have a Masters (MSc) Degree or its equivalent in cell and molecular biology, biochemistry or related areas. Eligible candidates **must not have a doctoral degree at the date of their recruitment**. Researchers who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis, but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree will not be considered eligible.
- **Comply with the mobility rule**, meaning that eligible candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting organisation for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their recruitment date (i.e. the starting date indicated in the employment contract/equivalent direct contract).
- Successful candidates must have a **high level of proficiency in written and spoken English**, which will be assessed with the motivation letter and the interview, respectively.
- Candidates should have an **outstanding academic record and be highly motivated** with interest in research.
- **Previous laboratory experience** and knowledge of molecular and cellular biology techniques is highly recommended.

Duties and Responsibilities

The successful candidate will enroll to the PhD programme in Molecular and Cellular Life Sciences at the University of Cyprus (<https://www.ucy.ac.cy/biol/wp-content/uploads/sites/43/2025/10/PhD-Molecular->

[Cellular-Life-Sciences.pdf](#)). The candidate is expected to conduct high-quality research and be very open to cooperation with other members of the lab and with external partners. The applicant will also participate in training and secondments organized by the NUCLEAR consortium as well as support design and implementation of experimental work, contribute to dissemination activities, and help with the preparation and submission of project deliverables.

Employment Terms

The funded position is available for 34 months, and offers a **total monthly amount of €2833,33** (monthly gross living allowance of €2.233,33 - employee deductions apply - and a monthly mobility allowance of €600 - no deductions applicable). Moreover, depending on family status, a monthly family allowance up to **€660** shall be additionally received. 13th salary bonus is not provided.

Applicants need not be citizens of the Republic of Cyprus. Applicants should however ensure, before applying, that in case they are selected they will be residing in Cyprus on a full-time basis during the employment period. Submission of application implies acceptance of this condition.

How to Apply

The candidates must submit the following in English:

1. A **motivation letter** (up to 2 pages) outlining your research experience, academic accomplishments, and your interest in NUCLEAR and the specific DC15 research project.
2. A **curriculum vitae**
3. Copy of **degrees and transcripts**. Alternatively a scanned copy of certified academic records, including grades from examination periods and proof that the required degree will be obtained by the time of recruitment if not already awarded.
4. The **names and contact details** of at least 2 academic referees

All application material must be emailed to kirmizis.lab@gmail.com with the subject title **“MSCA-NUCLEAR-DC15-2026”**.

Timeline

Application deadline: 28th February, 2026.

At least the best three candidates that satisfy the required qualifications, will be interviewed by a 3-member Committee.

Candidates shall be informed of the result of their application by the relevant entity.

The University of Cyprus shall collect and process your personal data according to the provisions of the General Regulation on Personal Data 2016/679 (EU).

The University of Cyprus (UCY) is committed to promoting inclusivity, diversity, and equality, as well as the elimination of all forms of discrimination in order to provide a fair, safe, and pleasant environment for the entire university community, where students and staff members will feel supported both in their professional and personal development, within and beyond their multiple identities. To this end, UCY seeks to create the necessary conditions that will encourage and respect diversity, and ensure dignity both in the workplace and society at large. Moreover, UCY has adopted specific policies to promote equal opportunities, as well as respect and understanding of diversity, while it is committed to promoting and maintaining a working, teaching, and learning environment, free from any form of discrimination, whether direct or indirect.

For further information please contact Prof. Antonis Kirmizis at kirmizis@ucy.ac.cy, or Dr Evelina Charidemou at charidemou.evelina@ucy.ac.cy.