

PHD / POST-DOC OPPORTUNITY IN THE FIELD OF “GENOMIC SELECTION AGAINST BOAR TAINT IN BELGIAN PIÉTRAIN PIGS”

A research fellowship (PhD or Post-Doc, with full social security coverage) in animal breeding and genetics is available with Prof. Nicolas Gengler at the TERRA Teaching and Research Center of Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (ULiège) in Belgium. **Net monthly salary will be around 2000 € (PhD) respectively 2500 € (Post-Doc)**, precise amount depending on country of origin.

This is a unique opportunity to join a large group of researchers joining forces in the development of advanced phenotyping, genotyping and modeling of data relevant to boar taint, but also related traits. Successful candidates will also have a unique opportunity to work with industry, academia and to learn about the unique Piétrain breed that is currently the most common terminal sire breed in many European countries. This should give them a unique training allowing them to qualify for further employment in the European pig breeding industry.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, during the rest of 2021 work is expected to be largely in home-office, for the next years presence in Gembloux, Belgium at least a few days a month is expected. Selected candidate should be mobile and own a car (travel costs will be reimbursed). Other collaborators are located in the east of Belgium close the German and Luxembourgish borders (Liège and Luxembourg provinces).

Candidates should have, or should receive in the next months, a MSc degree or equivalent in animal science in a broad sense (e.g., veterinarian, agricultural or bio-engineers interested in animal science), **respectively a PhD degree for post-docs applicants in quantitative disciplines** (e.g., animal breeding, data science, statistical genetics, quantitative genetics, computer science, or bioinformatics). Applications from candidates with different backgrounds (e.g., chemistry and biology) but demonstrating very strong interest in the topics (e.g., through their MSc or PhD thesis) and very good data analytical skills are also welcome. Post-doc applicants have to be in “international mobility” (less than 24 months in Belgium during last 36 months) and have received their PhD at a maximum 10 years before the start of the fellowship.

Expected activities will include management of the partnership and direct interaction with the industry and the funding body. For this reason, **candidates with a good command of the French language will be strongly preferred.** Applicants with no or a less strong command of this language can still apply but if selected would need to develop this skill in the first 12 months.

Total duration of the fellowship will be up to 48 months for PhD or 36 months for Post-Docs, but will depend on the (highly likely) official acceptance of Phase II of the NoWallOdor project by the funding organism, the Walloon Region. Extension for Post-Docs could be possible securing additional funding.

Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. For the selected candidate delay of starting dates could be accommodated, as **applications by students finalizing their MSc or PhD during 2021 are highly welcome.** If required, the selected candidate can be hired on a temporary basis waiting for the granting of her / his degree during 2021. To apply: a letter of interest in the position, C.V., and contact information for two references (including thesis supervisors) should be emailed to Nicolas Gengler nicolas.gengler@uliege.be. Informal inquiries are also welcome.