

Postdoc Opportunity in Asgard Archaea Ecology and Evolution

The Section of Microbiology, Department of Biology, Aarhus University, is looking for a highly motivated postdoctoral researcher to join the **Rodrigues-Oliveira group**. This **ERC-funded** position offers the opportunity to pursue cutting-edge research in a collaborative environment. The position is full-time, starting **1 April 2026** (or as soon as possible thereafter), and is funded initially for **1 year**, with the scope of work designed to deliver publishable outcomes within this timeframe. Your place of work will be the Department of Biology, Ny Munkegade 114-116, DK-8000 Aarhus C, Denmark.

About the research project

This research project focuses on the Asgard archaea, the closest known prokaryotic relatives of eukaryotes. However, many aspects of their ecology and metabolism remain poorly understood, despite their key evolutionary significance. The position involves focused analyses of proteins and metabolic pathways central to Asgard archaeal ecology, aiming to generate insights relevant to ongoing discussions on eukaryogenesis.

Applicants should have a strong background in bioinformatics, comparative genomics and phylogenetic analysis, and experience with next-generation sequencing-based approaches for assembling, annotating, and characterizing microbial genomes. The candidate should be comfortable working with a range of computational tools relevant to microbial ecology and evolution and have experience with one or more programming languages (e.g. Python, Perl, R). The successful candidate will be encouraged and supported to lead or co-author manuscripts arising from the project.

Qualifications

- A PhD in bioinformatics, computational biology, microbiology or related field.
- Proven research experience in comparative genomics and phylogeny
- Demonstrated teamwork and interpersonal skills, with commitment to collaborative research.
- Documented experience in scientific writing and publication in international peer-reviewed scientific journals
- The capacity to prepare and present his/her/their research at scientific conferences.
- Excellent English skills, both written and oral

What we offer

- A collaborative and international research environment with high standards and strong teamwork.
- An inclusive and respectful culture based on trust, kindness, and open dialogue.
- Flexible working conditions that support balance and individual needs.
- Commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in hiring, development, and daily work.
- An innovative and meaningful workplace where creativity is valued
- Support to attend scientific conferences
- Support for international staff and families, including relocation services and an Expat Partner Programme.
- Internationally competitive salary and benefits, in line with Danish national laws.

Want to apply?

Great! Please send your CV, a motivation letter, and the contact details of three referees to the project leader, Asst. Prof. Thiago Rodrigues de Oliveira (thiago.rodrigues@bio.au.dk). Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until the position is filled, early applications are encouraged