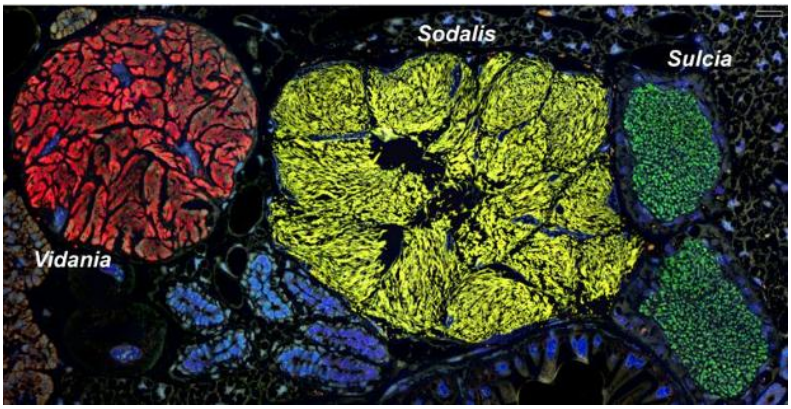
NCN scholarship for PhD Student in the evolution and function of the tiniest symbiotic bacterial genomes at the Institute of Environmental Sciences at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland

The Symbiosis Evolution Research Group (www.symbio.eko.uj.edu.pl) at the Institute of Environmental Sciences of Jagiellonian University (www.eko.uj.edu.pl) in Kraków, Poland **is seeking a motivated Ph.D. Student** to join the project "*The evolution and function of the tiniest bacterial genomes in the context of obligatory symbiosis collapse*", funded by the National Science Centre (NCN) Maestro 17 project no. 2025/58/A/NZ8/00559.



This project aims to determine **how insect-symbiotic bacteria with some of the smallest known genomes evolve, survive and function with such minimal genetic material**. The project team will address these questions using a combination of advanced research techniques. To investigate the diversity and evolution of these bacteria, we will sequence and analyse DNA from diverse insect species representing clades in which extreme genomic degeneration or symbiont loss has been observed. We will survey microbiota across insect collections to assess the stability of these associations within species and clades. We will characterize the genomes of insect-symbiotic bacteria and their host insects to infer their potential functions and use microscopy to assess bacterial distributions within insect tissues. We will determine which bacterial and insect genes are active and how their products are distributed within the insect body, thus inferring symbiosis functions. In parallel, we will investigate the evolution of host-support mechanisms using a combination of multi-omics approaches.

The PhD student will undertake a research project provisionally titled "The evolution, degeneration and loss of ancient symbioses in true hoppers." The research will integrate sequencing, bioinformatics and microscopy to reconstruct and compare patterns of extreme symbiont genome degradation across diverse true-hopper clades. The work is expected to focus initially on Typhlocybinae leafhoppers—one of the focal groups included in the project—and subsequently develop towards broader comparative analyses across other hopper clades.

The Student will participate in insect sampling and subsequent laboratory processing and will lead microbiota surveys and metagenomic and comparative genomic analyses. This will include the assembly and analysis of microbial genomes from diverse hopper clades, inference of their potential functions, and reconstruction of evolutionary patterns in their highly degraded ancient symbionts. The Student will take the lead in visualizing and interpreting the results and preparing scientific manuscripts. They will also promote the project, present its findings at scientific conferences and participate in outreach activities. Additionally, they will mentor and support Research Students addressing related research questions within particular insect clades and contribute to the training of junior colleagues.

The Student will be encouraged to collaborate closely with other team members and the project's Polish and international collaborators, including Filip Husnik (Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology, Japan) and João Araújo (University of Copenhagen).

The student will be supported by a generous 48-month tax-free stipend, PLN 5,000 per month, from the Maestro 17 research grant. The preferred start date in the project is 1st of October 2026.

Requirements:

- an MSc degree in biology or a related field, obtained by 30 September 2026;
- doctoral-student status in a doctoral school, effective no later than 1 October 2026;
- previous active involvement in academic research at the intersection of evolution, entomology, microbiology and/or genomics;
- experience in bioinformatics and computational biology, or a strong motivation to develop expertise in these areas;
- strong written and spoken English;
- excellent organizational and interpersonal skills;
- enthusiasm for conducting research in a dynamic, collaborative environment.

Preferred qualifications:

- a record of scientific publications and/or conference presentations;
- knowledge of and interest in insect symbioses;
- experience with standard molecular biology techniques;
- familiarity with the Linux command-line environment;
- experience in amplicon-sequencing and/or genomic-data analysis;
- willingness and ability to travel for fieldwork and scientific conferences.

The applicants should submit the following documents:

- a cover letter describing their research experience, scientific interests and motivation for joining the project;
- a CV, including a list of publications, conference presentations and other achievements;
- a confirmation of doctoral-student status or admission to a doctoral school effective no later than 1st October 2026;
- a completed and signed statement concerning the processing of personal data, using the form provided below.

Applications should be sent by email to Dr hab. Piotr Łukasik (p.lukasik@uj.edu.pl) by **7th September 2026, 11:59 PM**. The results will be announced by **14th of September 2026**.

Applications will be evaluated by a scholarship selection committee in accordance with the regulations governing NCN scientific scholarships in research projects funded by the National Science Centre, Poland (https://www.ncn.gov.pl/sites/default/files/pliki/uchwaly-rady/2024/uchwala25_2024-zal1_ang.pdf)

Informacja o przetwarzaniu danych osobowych
- w ramach procedury konkursowej oraz umowy o realizację badań i finansowanie stypendium przyznanego przez Narodowe Centrum Nauki -

Zgodnie z art. 13 Rozporządzenia Parlamentu Europejskiego i Rady (UE) 2016/679 z dnia 27 kwietnia 2016 r. w sprawie ochrony osób fizycznych w związku z przetwarzaniem danych osobowych i w sprawie swobodnego przepływu takich danych oraz uchylenia dyrektywy 95/46/WE (ogólne rozporządzenie o ochronie danych, dalej „RODO") Uniwersytet Jagielloński informuje, że:

1. **Administratorem** Pana/Pani danych osobowych jest Uniwersytet Jagielloński, ul. Gołębia 24, 31-007 Kraków, reprezentowany przez Rektora UJ.

2. **Uniwersytet Jagielloński wyznaczył Inspektora Ochrony Danych**, ul. Czapskich 4, 31-110 Kraków, pokój nr 25. Kontakt z Inspektorem możliwy jest przez e-mail: iod@uj.edu.pl lub pod nr telefonu 12 663 12 25.

3. Pana/Pani dane osobowe przetwarzane będą na podstawie art. 6 ust. 1 lit. b RODO, **w celu** niezbędnym do realizacji procedury konkursowej w sprawie stypendium, przyznawania stypendiów naukowych w projektach badawczych finansowanych z Narodowego Centrum Nauki, a w razie wyboru na stanowisko stypendysty w związku z zawarciem umowy o wypłatę stypendium naukowego oraz czynności związanych z pobieraniem stypendium naukowego na podstawie Regulaminu przyznawania stypendiów naukowych w projektach badawczych finansowanych ze środków Narodowego Centrum Nauki, umowy o realizację i finansowanie projektu badawczego **„Ewolucja i funkcja najmniejszych genomów bakteryjnych w kontekście rozpadu obligatoryjnych relacji symbiotycznych"** (dalej „Projekt"), w

Information on the Processing of Personal Data

- under the call for proposals procedure and the agreement for the implementation of research and the payment of a scholarship awarded by the National Science Centre -

Pursuant to Article 13 of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) 2016/679 of 27 April 2016 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation, hereinafter: GDPR), Jagiellonian University informs that:

1. **The Controller** of your personal data is Jagiellonian University, ul. Gołębia 24, 31-007 Kraków, represented by the JU Rector.

2. **Jagiellonian University has appointed a Data Protection Officer** at ul. Gołębia 24, 30-007 Kraków, room No. 31. The Officer can be contacted by email: iod@uj.edu.pl or by phone at 12 663 12 25.

3. Your personal data will be processed on the basis of Article 6(1)(b) of the RODO, for the purpose necessary to carry out the call for proposals procedure for the scholarship, awarding of research scholarships in research projects funded by the National Science Centre, and, if selected for the position of scholarship holder, in connection with the conclusion of an agreement for the payment of the research scholarship and activities related to the receipt of the research scholarship on the basis of the Regulations for awarding NCN scholarships for NCN-funded research projects, the agreement for the implementation and funding of the research project *"**The evolution and function of the tiniest bacterial genomes in the context of obligatory symbiosis collapse**"(*hereinafter the 'Project'), for which the call for proposals is being held for the post of scholarship holder.

ramach którego przeprowadzany jest konkurs na stanowisko stypendysty.

4. Podanie przez Pana/Panią danych osobowych jest dobrowolne, lecz konieczne do uczestnictwa w procedurze konkursowej, a w przypadku przyznania stypendium jest warunkiem zawarcia i wykonania umowy o wypłatę stypendium.

5. **Odbiorcami** Pana/Pani danych osobowych **będą**: Narodowe Centrum Nauki z siedzibą w Krakowie, podmioty oceniające lub kontrolujące prawidłową realizację projektu, w ramach którego umowa została zawarta, audytorzy działający zgodnie z przepisami prawa lub którym Uniwersytet Jagielloński zlecił przeprowadzenie audytu, instytucje takie jak Najwyższa Izba Kontroli, właściwy urząd skarbowy oraz Zakład Ubezpieczeń Społecznych, inne podmioty uprawnione do uzyskania danych na podstawie przepisów prawa oraz umowy o realizację i finansowanie Projektu zawartej z Narodowym Centrum Nauki.

6. Pani/Pana dane osobowe nie będą przekazywane do państw trzecich (poza Europejski Obszar Gospodarczy) ani do organizacji międzynarodowych. Jeżeli jednak Pani/Pana dane w procesie rekrutacji zostaną przekazane Uniwersytetowi Jagiellońskiemu w wersji elektronicznej, mogą one być przetwarzane w chmurze Office 365 OneDrive na podstawie podpisanej umowy powierzenia pomiędzy UJ i Microsoft oraz na podstawie wdrożonego przez Microsoft dokumentu zwanego „Tarczą Prywatności".

7. Pani/Pana dane osobowe będą **przetwarzane przez okres**: do czasu zakończenia realizacji Projektu i rozliczenia umowy o realizację i finansowanie Projektu zawartej z Narodowym Centrum Nauki, a następnie do upływu terminu przedawnienia roszczeń z umowy w Projekcie; w celach archiwizacyjnych – przez okres prawem przewidziany.

8. Posiada Pan/Pani **prawo do**: uzyskania informacji o przetwarzaniu danych osobowych i uprawnieniach przysługujących zgodnie z RODO, dostępu do treści swoich

4. The provision of your personal data is voluntary but necessary in order to participate in the call for proposals procedure and, in the case of a scholarship award, is a condition for the conclusion and execution of the scholarship payment agreement.

5. The **recipients** of your personal data **will be:** The National Science Centre with its registered office in Kraków, entities assessing or controlling the proper implementation of the project within the framework of which the agreement was concluded, auditors acting in accordance with the law or to whom Jagiellonian University commissioned an audit, institutions such as the Supreme Chamber of Control, the competent tax office and the Social Insurance Institution, other entities entitled to obtain data on the basis of the law and the research project funding agreement concluded with the National Science Centre.

6. Your personal data shall not be transferred to third countries (outside the EEA) or international organisations. However, suppose your data in the recruitment process is submitted to Jagiellonian University electronically. In that case, it may be processed in the Office 365 OneDrive cloud based on a signed entrustment agreement between JU and Microsoft and on the basis of a document implemented by Microsoft called the 'Privacy Shield'.

7. Your personal data **will be processed for the following period**: until the completion of the Project and settlement of the Funding Agreement concluded with the National Science Centre, over the period of Project duration (if applicable) and subsequently until the expiry of the statute of limitations for claims under the Agreement in the Project; for archiving purposes: for the period provided by law.

danych oraz ich sprostowania, a także prawo do usunięcia danych osobowych ze zbiorów administratora (chyba że dalsze przetwarzanie jest konieczne dla wykonania obowiązku prawnego albo w celu ustalenia, dochodzenia lub obrony roszczeń), oraz prawo do ograniczenia przetwarzania, przenoszenia danych, wniesienia sprzeciwu wobec przetwarzania – w przypadkach i na warunkach określonych w RODO.

9. Pani/Pana dane osobowe nie będą przedmiotem automatycznego podejmowania decyzji ani profilowania.

10. Ma Pan/Pani prawo wniesienia **skargi do Prezesa Urzędu Ochrony Danych Osobowych** w razie uznania, że przetwarzanie Pani/Pana danych osobowych narusza przepisy RODO.

8. You have the **following rights**: to obtain information on personal data processing and rights resulting from the GDPR, to access your data and rectify them, as well as to have them deleted from the controller's database (unless further processing is necessary for fulfilling a legal obligation or for the purposes of determining, pursuing, or defending claims), to limit their processing or transfer, and to object to the processing of the data – in the cases and under the conditions specified in the GDPR.

9. Your personal data will not be subject to automated decision-making or profiling.

10. You have the right to lodge **a complaint with the President of the Office for Personal Data Protection**, should you ascertain that the processing of your personal data violates the provisions of the GDPR.

Potwierdzam, że zapoznałem(-am) się i przyjmuję do wiadomości powyższe informacje.

I hereby confirm that I have read and understood the above information.

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miejscowość, data, czytelny podpis/place, date, legible signature