



INTERCEPT-MDS



# INTERCEPT-MDS INTERNATIONAL PhD FELLOWSHIPS



## 1 full-time PhD position

### HOST INSTITUTE:

- **Klinikum rechts der Isar der TU München. Germany > Munich**

**RESEARCH PROFILE: First Stage Researcher (R1<sup>1</sup>)**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 30 July 2021 (midnight CEST)**

**EU RESEARCH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME: HORIZON 2020**

**MARIE SKOLODOWSKA CURIE GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER: 953407**

### Offer Description

The Innovative Training Network (ITN) "INTERCEPT-MDS - Exploring cell-to-cell heterogeneity and exploiting epigenetic regulation for the interception of myeloid disease cells" is recruiting 1 highly motivated PhD candidate. The offered position is available with a duration of 36 months in the Klinikum rechts der Isar der TU München (Munich, Germany) under the supervision of Prof. Katharina Götze. The position is funded as part of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Innovative Training Networks under the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme. MARIE CURIE GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER: 953407

See more info at: [https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/actions/research-networks\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/actions/research-networks_en)

**About the Scientific Project: Dissecting the cellular crosstalk between the bone marrow microenvironment and hematopoietic stem/progenitor cells (HSPCs) in clonal hematopoiesis of indeterminate potential (CHIP), myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) and secondary acute myeloid leukemia (AML)**

Prof. Katharina Götze's lab (<https://med3.mri.tum.de/de/hematopoeitic-stem-cells-and-microenvironment>) focuses on interaction between hematopoietic stem and progenitor cells (HSPC) and their bone marrow microenvironment (niche) to identify and target critical pathways directing clonal evolution and enabling survival and expansion of mutated HSPC. The project will dissect the cellular crosstalk between niche and HSPCs in the developmental trajectory from clonal hematopoiesis of indeterminate potential (CHIP) to myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) and secondary acute myeloid leukemia (AML) with a focus on inflammatory pathways. Using primary patient samples, the PhD candidate will employ a variety of wet lab techniques including single cell (sc)RNA sequencing, ATAC sequencing, multiparameter flow cytometry, spatial resolution by confocal microscopy and CRISPR/Cas editing of primary niche cells, with the ultimate goal of identifying specific triggers of disease progression.

To further broaden the expertise of the PhD candidate and support the project, two secondments of 3 months at Dr. Hind Medyouf's lab (Georg Speyer Haus, Frankfurt,

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<sup>1</sup> First Stage Researcher (R1) PhD candidate or equivalent. Early stage researcher with less than 4 years FTE research experience.

Germany) to employ co-transplantation mouse models and 3 months at GenomeScan B.V. (Leiden, Netherlands) for generation and in-depth analyses of scRNAseq data will be offered as an integral part of the PhD project.

PhD candidates interested in translational cancer research, hematopoiesis, inflammation, leukemia and/or stem cells are encouraged to apply. Prior experience with stem cell assays, flow cytometry, RNA sequencing, bioinformatics or computational biology is highly desirable.

### **About the INTERCEPT-MDS network**

INTERCEPT-MDS brings together 10 European public and private institutions in a European network of experts in leukaemia, epigenetics and single-cell approaches. Through a multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach, the INTERCEPT-MDS network will study disease interception in the context of clonal myeloid diseases.

The PhD candidate to be based at the Klinikum rechts der Isar der TU München (Munich, Germany) will have eleven counterparts at other leading European research institutions. The successful candidate will be enrolled in a PhD programme and will receive an outstanding and tailored training designed specifically for the INTERCEPT-MDS fellows. In addition to the training offered by the university, supervisor and host institution, the PhD candidate will also carry out secondments in other European institutions within the network to provide the needed interactions to achieve research and training excellence and improve his/her future career perspectives.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

#### **Eligibility criteria:**

We welcome applications from PhD candidates from any country fulfilling the following criteria:

- Eligible candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Germany for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to their recruitment by the Klinikum rechts der Isar der TU München (i.e. the starting date indicated in the employment contract/equivalent direct contract).
- Eligible candidates shall at the date of recruitment (i.e. the starting date indicated in the employment contract/equivalent direct contract) be in the first 4 years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers (from the date when the applicant obtained the degree which would formally entitle him or her to embark on a doctorate).
- Eligible candidates shall not have been awarded a doctoral degree.
- Eligible candidates must have a master's degree relevant for the position or its equivalent that would entitle them to a doctorate by the time they are recruited (July-October 2021), or must hold an official university qualification from a country of the European Higher Education Area with a minimum of 300 ECTs of official university studies. Applications are welcome from candidates who are currently finishing their master studies.

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.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

### **Application and selection process**

The application will be done through an online application platform to be found on the INTERCEPT-MDS website: [intercept-mds.eu/apply-now/](https://intercept-mds.eu/apply-now/). Applications must be in English.

Eligible applications will be ranked on the basis of CVs and merits by a selection committee.

Applicants with a positive evaluation but not selected will be included on a reserve list to cover eventual future positions and might be contacted at a later stage.

### **Timeline**

- Application deadline: 30 July 2021 (midnight CEST)
- Tentative start of the fellowship: by October 2021

### **Benefits**

- 3-year full-time employment contract (salary depends on the local and MSCA regulations for Early Stage Researchers and their family status at the time of the recruitment).
- Enrolment in a PhD programme.
- Shared research and innovative multidisciplinary and multisectoral training by experts and experienced trainers from two sectors (academia and industry) and two research environments (clinic and basic).
- A structured training programme consisting of soft skill courses, targeted workshops, retreats, social events and networking.
- Secondments at other institutions within the INTERCEPT-MDS consortium.
- Gaining experience abroad.
- Opportunities for participation in national and international meetings.
- Enlarged professional network and improved future scientific career perspective in academia and the private sector.

For further information on the INTERCEPT-MDS ITN and the application process, please visit [www.intercept-mds.eu](https://www.intercept-mds.eu).

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