



INTERCEPT-MDS



# INTERCEPT-MDS INTERNATIONAL PhD FELLOWSHIPS



## 1 full-time PhD position

### HOST INSTITUTE:

- **Institute for Tumor Biology and Experimental Therapy, Georg-Speyer-Haus. Germany > Frankfurt**

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

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 30 July 2021**

**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 Institute for Tumor Biology and Experimental Therapy, Georg-Speyer-Haus (Frankfurt, Germany) under the supervision of Dr. Hind Medyouf. 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: Exploiting 3D organotypic niche models to dissect the cellular crosstalk between niche and haematopoietic stem cell/progenitors (HSPCs) in human myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS).**

The PhD candidate at Dr. Hind Medyouf's research lab (<https://georg-speyer-haus.de/staff/medyouf-forschung/>) will combine experimental and computational approaches to dissect the cellular crosstalk between niche and haematopoietic stem/progenitor cells (HSPCs) in myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) with the goal to identify niche dependencies that can be exploited for disease interception. The Project will make extensive use of innovative 3D Human Organotypic Marrow Environments (3DHOMEs) to functionally evaluate niche dependencies and perform screens to identify druggable modules that promote the fitness and progressive clonal dominance of malignant MDS cells. Results will be confirmed using patient-derived xenograft models and primary patient samples.

To achieve this the successful candidate will use a large panel of wet lab techniques, including primary cell culture, multiparameter flow cytometry, various imaging platforms, CRISPR/Cas9 mediated genetic engineering and animal work. Additionally, the candidate will use single cell RNA sequencing approaches, to carry out a comprehensive

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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.

and spatially resolved analysis of the composition and priming of both the MDS and the stromal compartment. As such, preference will be given to candidate(s) with experience/background in computational science/bioinformatics.

To further broaden the expertise of the PhD candidate and support the project, two secondments of 3 months at GenomeScan B.V. (Leiden, The Netherlands) and 2 months at University of Bergen (Bergen, Norway), will be offered as an integral part of the PhD project.

### **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 Institute for Tumor Biology and Experimental Therapy, Georg-Speyer-Haus (Frankfurt, 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 Institute for Tumor Biology and Experimental Therapy, Georg-Speyer-Haus (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 chosen position (e.g. Biology, Computational science) 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
- 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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