

The **Jena School for Microbial Communication (JSMC)** is funded by the **German Excellence Initiative**. It conceptually combines different research areas (microbial communities, interactions with plant, animal and human hosts and environmental interactions) to a comprehensive picture of microbial communication (www.jsmc.uni-jena.de). JSMC is an ambitious Graduate School prospectively comprising 150 PhD students who will be educated in a structured, interdisciplinary training program based on top-level fundamental research. Four faculties of the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, six non-university research institutions as well as twelve partner companies are participating in this cutting edge research and training program which includes an innovative PhD program, career development and intensive sociocultural care. Three embedded existing Research Training Groups as well as twelve other cooperative research projects are engaged to incorporate novel research areas to achieve a complete view of microbial communication.

We invite applications for a

**PhD Fellowship (Ref.No. JSMC-21/2008) on the topic
Host pathogen interactions of human pathogenic yeast**

Candida yeasts are part of the normal microbial flora but frequently cause superficial or even life threatening systemic infections. During these infections, the fungi need to adapt to radically changing environments and almost permanently interact with host cells. The aim of this project is the identification and characterisation of factors involved in the interaction with host cells and in the ability of these fungi to cause diseases by using methods of cellular and molecular biology, microbiology and biochemistry.

We expect:

- a Master's degree (or equivalent) in Natural or Life Sciences. Research at JSMC is centred around "Microbial Communication" from various scientific perspectives (including Biology, Physics, Earth Science, Chemistry, Medical Sciences, Bioinformatics, etc.). Candidates about to earn their degree are welcome to apply.
- high motivation and interest to join one of the interdisciplinary research areas of JSMC
- creativity and interest to shape your own thesis project
- an integrative and cooperative personality
- very good communication skills in English

We offer:

- a top-level research environment
- a PhD stipend paid according to the rules of the DFG (German Research Foundation) as well as generous research funding
- a periodic research report system
- efficient supervision by a team of two supervisors
- a comprehensive mentoring program
- courses in novel technologies and soft skills
- a highly communicative atmosphere between the involved institutions and companies
- Jena – the **German City of Science 2008**: a young and lively city with dynamic business activities, successful scientific centres of innovation and a vibrant cultural scene around the famous Friedrich Schiller University

Friedrich Schiller University Jena is an equal opportunity employer.

Further information:

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For the first step of the application procedure please thoroughly fill in the "Statement of Interest" form downloadable from www.jsmc.uni-jena.de.

The application procedure is handled online exclusively via the JSMC website. Please note that applications can only be considered upon receipt of the completed "Statement of Interest" submitted to JSMC@uni-jena.de.

Deadline for submission of the "Statement of Interest": October 6th, 2008.

Successful applicants will be invited to attend a recruitment meeting in December 2008.