

PhD Studentship in molecular and structural biology

We are looking for a **PhD student** to join the project team of **Dr Katarzyna Bandyra** at the University of Warsaw to work on the **structure and function of human mitochondrial FASTKD proteins** in the SONATA BIS 13 grant funded by the National Science Centre, Poland. This is an opportunity to learn the exciting technique of electron cryomicroscopy which is revolutionizing structural biology. The project aims at biochemical and structural characterization of proteins playing crucial roles in mitochondria homeostasis.

For the latest example of Dr Bandyra's work, see: *A cooperative PNPase-Hfq-RNA carrier complex facilitates bacterial riboregulation*. Molecular Cell (2021) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molcel.2021.05.032>

We are looking for an outstanding young researcher who should have:

- **A Master's degree** in molecular biology or a related field (awarded by September 2026)
- Good knowledge and experience with basic molecular biology techniques
- Interest in protein biochemistry and biology of protein-RNA complexes
- Good organisation skills
- Good spoken and written English (at least B2 level)
- Experience with protein expression, RNA manipulation and structural biology would be an advantage

The scope of work will include: cloning, protein expression in bacterial and mammalian systems, protein purification, characterisation of the activity and substrate preference, identification of RNA and protein partners in human cells, and protein structural analysis.

The application should be sent to: recruit.bandyra@gmail.com by **15th March 2026** with a reference in the topic **Sonata-PhD**. The most promising candidates will be invited for an interview.

The application must include the following documents and information (in English):

- **Motivation letter**,
- **2 Letters of recommendation** (preferably; including one from the thesis supervisor) or 2 e-mail contact details for referees
- **CV** including: grade average from the studies, awards, studentships, major conference presentations, internships, publications, and any other relevant information.
- **Clause of consent** ("*I agree to the processing of personal data provided in my application (CV, cover letter, and other submitted documents) by the University of Warsaw for realising my recruitment process.*"); Please sign and date the consent) – see e.g. <http://www.chem.uw.edu.pl/oferty-pracy>

The position will be available from October 2026 for 48 months. The selected candidate will be required to apply to the Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences and will receive a doctoral studentship funded by the grant in the amount of 5000 PLN per month. For more information about the group see also <https://gorna.uw.edu.pl/en>