



# RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

## Sandwich-PhD Scholarship in Germany in NATURAL PRODUCTS ISOLATION & SCREENING FOR ANTI-INFECTIVES ACTIVITIES

**DEADLINE for APPLICATIONS: MARCH 16 2026**



### SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIPTION

GLACIER invites for applications from Latin American graduate students seeking a research stay at the Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry in Halle (Saale), Germany, to work on natural products (NPs) isolation, characterization and bioactivity testing, and to strengthen their scientific and personal development. (earliest start date: 01 Apr 2026 / latest start date: 01 May 2026)

The **general objective** of the research stay is to help the selected applicant deepen her/his expertise in natural products research spanning the whole workflow from NPs extraction from plants/fungi to the screening for potential anti-infectives activities.

The **specific objectives and activities** are:

- Employing methodologies for NPs extraction, isolation and purification
- Employing spectroscopic/spectrometric techniques (MS, NMR etc.) for compound identification, structure elucidation and metabolomics
- Carrying out bioassays for the elucidation of anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and anthelmintic activities of the extracts and isolated NPs

The selected applicant will be trained in the use of methodologies that state-of-the-art in the field of natural products research and drug candidate identification.

### WHAT DOES IT COVER?

This scholarship covers an **8-months research stay** at the Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry (IPB) in Germany, with a stipend of:

**1.400 €/month  
plus  
flight costs**

(max. 1.600 €, will be booked by IPB)

Additional details are available upon request.

### HOST INSTITUTION

The Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry (IPB) is a public top-level research institute of the Leibniz Association. It is located at the Weinberg Campus of the Martin-Luther-University in Halle (Saale), Germany. The Department of Bioorganic Chemistry headed by PhD Ludger Wessjohann focuses on the isolation and characterization of natural products from plants and fungi as well as the development of bioactive compounds for plant and human health applications and their selective targeting and release.

**Responsible Investigators:** Ludger Wessjohann (Germany) & Robert Rennert (Germany)

## ELIGIBILITY

The applicant must be a national from any of the Latin American countries that belong to the GLACIER consortium (more information at: [glacieronehealth.org](http://glacieronehealth.org)).



The applicant must be (or plan to be) enrolled in a doctoral program at a GLACIER-associated Latin American university.



## BASIC REQUIREMENTS

The applicant must hold a graduate degree in **chemistry**, **biochemistry** or **pharmacy** (or comparable) and be active in or employed by a GLACIER partner institution. She/he should have some previous experience in natural products chemistry & extraction or bioactivity screening and fulfill the following basic requirements:

- Fluent in (scientific) **English** or German.
- Belongs to the best quartile of students (certified by supervisor or statistics).
- Committed (both the applicant and their Latin American supervisor) to accept co-supervision and task agreement with the **host institution**, and to complete and defend the PhD thesis within a maximum period of 4 years after the beginning of the research stay in Germany.
- Accepts the rules of DAAD, the host institution and commits to good scientific practice in general.
- Provides reports, presentations, and full documentation on the dates established by the host.

## IDEAL SKILLS

At least a Master's degree in **chemistry** or **biochemistry** with **advanced experience** in:

- Chemistry and biological effects of natural products
- Extraction, isolation and purification of natural products
- Analytical characterization of organic compounds
- Bioactivity screening (antibacterial, antifungi or anthelmintic)

## DOCUMENTS YOU NEED TO SEND

Please send your application as a PDF document (< 10 MB) via email with the subject **GLACIER-IPB\_Call26-1** to [GLACIER@ipb-halle.de](mailto:GLACIER@ipb-halle.de) by **16 March 2026**.

It must include: (1) a **tabular CV**, with personal and institutional contact details, (2) a **motivation letter** not longer than 1/2 page, and (3) a 2-page (maximum) **research plan**, ideally coordinated with one local and one German supervisor and including a GANTT-chart.

In addition, your supervisor must provide a **reference letter** sent from their **institutional email address**. Supervisor letters sent from personal email addresses (e.g., Yahoo accounts) will not be accepted, unless the supervisor has registered such email address before with GLACIER.

## CONTACT

**Dr. Robert Rennert**

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