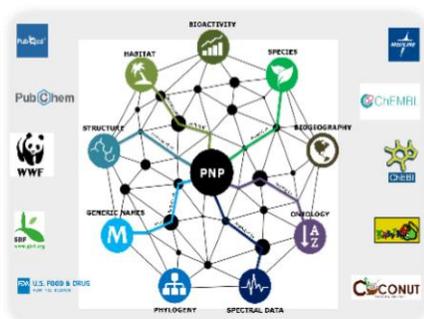# RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

Sandwich-PhD Scholarship in Germany in
CHEMO-INFORMATICS / BIO-INFORMATICS / COMPUTATIONAL CHEMISTRY

DEADLINE for APPLICATIONS: MARCH 16 2026

WHAT DOES IT COVER?

This scholarship covers an **up to 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)

Further details are available upon request. The scholarship may be prolonged in subsequent years.

SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIPTION

GLACIER invites for applications from Latin American graduate students seeking a research stay at the Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry (IPB) in Halle (Saale), Germany, to work on a knowledge graph and cheminformatics platform which integrates heterogeneous natural product data into scalable graph-based systems developing analytical, visualization and AI tools, and to strengthen their scientific / personal development. (earliest start date: 01 Apr 2026 / latest start date: 01 Sep 2026)

The **general objective** of the research stay is to help the selected applicant deepen her/his expertise in informatics or chemo-informatics.

The **specific objectives and activitie**s are:

1. Database construction to compile, integrate, curate and analyse information on plant natural products and bioactivity data.
2. Further development, maintenance and update of our "Natural One Health" knowledge base (https://n1h.org).
3. Implementation of cheminformatics search and AI-powered analysis tools, for natural products and plant databases.
4. Chemical information systems including literature-mining and data visualization methods (e.g. natural language processing and text mining methods).

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 Prof. 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 software tools to support natural products research and collaboration.

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**).

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 chemo- or bioinformatics, computational chemistry or biology, or informatics (or with a master in chemistry or a related science completed with additional knowledge in programming or data science) and be active in or employed by a GLACIER partner institution. She/he should have some experience and keen interest in knowledge graph & semantic data modeling, generating tools for the extraction and analysis of scientific data, i.e. a solid knowledge of informatics, programming (e.g. in Python, Java), scheme alignment and data integration across heterogeneous sources, 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.

IDEAL SKILLS

At least a master's degree in **informatics** or **chemo-informatics** with **advanced experience** in:

- Software engineering (Full-Stack Scientific Systems).
- Knowledge graph design & integration data engineering & ETL pipelines, database and font & backend development.
- Master in software engineering or a related field completed with additional knowledge in software development and databases or chemistry.
- Developed backend services & APIs (Java/Spring) for querying & analytics.

DOCUMENTS YOU NEED TO SEND

Please send your application as a PDF document (< 10 MB) via email with the subject **GLACIER-IPB_Call26-2 to GLACIER@ipb-halle.de** by **04 March 2026**.

It must include: (1) a **tabular CV**, with personal and institutional contact details, (2) a **motivation letter** not longer than ½ 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

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