

Molecular Physiology and Functional Biochemistry SNSF Starting Grant- Assistant Professor

The Department of Biology at the University of Fribourg invites applications from candidates intending to apply for Starting Grants of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) in the research domain of Molecular Physiology and Functional Biochemistry. SNSF Starting Grantees have an Assistant Professor status at the University of Fribourg. Tenure-track options are open to discussion. The Department of Biology aims to identify candidates to be supported for SNSF applications in May 2026.

The new professorship will contribute to the future development of the Department in the general area of Molecular Physiology and Functional Biochemistry. We are looking for a researcher investigating biochemical and molecular processes that underlie physiological functions in complex biological systems. The ideal candidate will study how molecular pathways integrate environmental and/or internal cues to coordinate systemic responses such as metabolic adaptation, neuroendocrine regulation, immune homeostasis, or stress-induced behavioural/physiological change. Approaches that explore how cells, tissues and organs communicate with each other in vivo — for example via neural, hormonal, or metabolic signalling — are particularly welcome. Research using mice, organoids or emerging model organisms is encouraged, especially if it reinforces or complements the current diversity of experimental models in the department and provides novel mechanistic insight into processes relevant for human physiology and disease.

Applicants are expected to hold a PhD or equivalent degree, have postdoctoral experience, and an excellent scientific track record.

The Department of Biology has a strong interdisciplinary focus, bridging biochemistry, omics approaches, computational biology, and neuro/developmental biology with evolutionary and environmental biology. In addition, we closely collaborate with the biomedical disciplines within the Section of Medicine at the University of Fribourg. We offer an interdisciplinary and vibrant research environment in the heart of Switzerland with excellent opportunities for collaboration. The University of Fribourg offers access to cutting-edge scientific infrastructure via its technical platforms, including bioimaging, metabolomics, proteomics, and cell analytics. State-of-the-art computational resources are also readily available.

The University of Fribourg is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to increasing the representation of women scientists in leadership positions.

Application process

Please submit your application via e-mail to Prof. Simon Sprecher (simon.sprecher@unifr.ch) with the following documents **combined into a single PDF file**:

1. Motivation letter (max. 2 pages)
2. CV (max. 3 pages) including (where applicable): Education and academic experience, net academic age, prizes, fellowships, and acquired third-party funding.
3. Three references
4. Research plan, publication list and teaching statement (max. 5 pages)

The deadline for application to our Department is **December 1, 2025, at 12:00 pm CET**.

Selected candidates will be invited for on-site interviews in January, 2026. The next SNSF Starting Grant call opens on February 1, 2026, with a submission deadline on May 5, 2026. The anticipated start date of the position is 2027.