

Research assistant position

Our research group at the **Institute of Medical Microbiology of University of Zurich** is searching for a **Research Laboratory Assistant (80-100% as soon as possible)** to strengthen our team by contributing to our biobanking process.

Led by Prof. Adrian Egli, we specialize in clinical microbiology research, conducting studies using advanced molecular techniques to better understand pathogen-host interactions and develop innovative diagnostic tools. We collaborate closely with clinical labs for rapid sample access and manage a significant biobank of clinical samples. Due to the size of our biobank, we are seeking a candidate to assist us in managing and maintaining it.

Our research group at the Institute of Medical Microbiology based in the City Campus of the University of Zurich. The Institute focuses its activities on microbiological diagnosis (bacteriology, mycology, and serology), basic research in determination and study of antibiotic resistance mechanisms, and teaching. Our laboratory and institute are fully equipped with state-of-the-art instruments, machines, and core facilities, enabling high quality research and diagnostics.

The role:

As a **Research Laboratory Assistant** you will contribute to the biobanking process in various research projects by:

- Support laboratory operations, including reception, coordination, processing, and storage of incoming samples from research projects and biobanking.
- Detailed documentation and management of samples for clinical studies and biobanking.
- Assist on research projects by carrying out wet lab protocols and procedures, including DNA/RNA extraction, bacteria cultivation and identification using MALDI-TOF MS, molecular biology techniques (PCR).
- Carry out laboratory techniques using a variety of analytical platforms and instrumentation (such as liquid handling and automation, automated nucleic acid purification solutions).
- Managing and participating in standard laboratory housekeeping and restocking, including cleaning.
- Maintenance of shared equipment and ensure its functionality.
- Good communication and support, working with both the lab manager and entire scientific staff.
- Communication of essential information and updates in internal group meetings

Required expertise:

- Training as lab technician in biology, biomedical or pharmaceutical sciences with a minimum of 3 years of experience OR degree (BSc) in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, or relevant Biological or Biomedical Science.
- Experience working in BSL-2 laboratories and bacterial microorganisms.

- Experience working with clinical samples (blood, urine, stool).
- Ideally hands-on experience in molecular biology techniques (DNA/RNA handling, PCR, etc.).

Personal skills:

- Excellent organizational and documentation skills.
- Ability to work independently.
- Good time management skills with the ability to balance several parallel tasks.
- Good verbal and written communication skills in English and preferably in German are required.
- Strong and clear communication skills, able to communicate with group members and cross-functional project teams.
- High level of self-motivation with a proactive, collaborative personality.

What we offer:

- The possibility of being part of innovative science and technology to address some of society's most challenging healthcare issues – antimicrobial resistance.
- Laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment (MALDI-TOF MS, Liquid Handling robots, etc.).
- Enjoy working with an international and diverse team with talented and passionate people, from which you can learn about exciting research in clinical microbiology.
- Become a valuable member of the Institute and benefit from a diverse network of experts (PhDs, post-docs, academic staff, etc.) in medical microbiology.
- Flexible working hours.
- From time-to-time we organize off-site laboratory retreats and team building activities.
- As a member of the University of Zurich, you will have additional benefits such as special price for the Academic Sport Association Zurich (ASVZ), diverse range of catering and canteen facilities at a discount price, continuing education and language courses, private supplementary accident insurance, and many more.

Are you interested?

To apply, please send us your updated CV, motivation letter, recommendation letters, and further documentation together with 2 references to Prof. Adrian Egli (principal investigator, email: aegli@imm.uzh.ch) and Diana Albertos Torres (lab manager, email: dalbertostorres@imm.uzh.ch).

Job title: Research laboratory assistant

Job type: 80-100%

Location: Institute for Medical Microbiology, Gloriastrasse 28/30, 8006 Zurich