**EPFL**

PhD Fellowship in Protein Degradation

The research will be carried out in the Kozicka lab (Laboratory of Proteostasis and Molecular Therapeutics) at the ISIC, **EPFL (Lausanne, Switzerland)**, which offers an international and collaborative research environment. The position is full-time and fully funded according to EPFL doctoral salary rates, with a start date in August 2026 or by agreement. For further information, please visit the lab's webpage: https://www.epfl.ch/labs/lpmt/
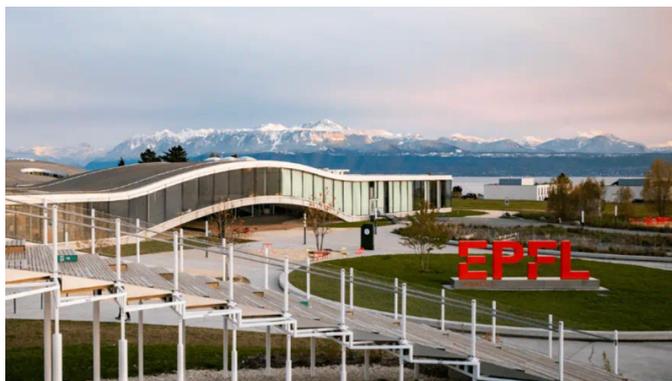
Project description

Molecular glue degraders redirect the ubiquitin–proteasome system by stabilizing protein–protein interactions that control substrate recognition and turnover, and are emerging as a new therapeutic modality. Increasing evidence suggests that their activity often exploits pre-existing interaction networks that regulate protein stability in cells.

In this PhD project, the student will characterize degradation pathways – for example mapping how ligases recognize their targets – using biochemical and structural approaches, in close collaboration with complementary efforts in cell biology and functional genomics. The overarching goal is to uncover mechanisms that link endogenous protein regulation to therapeutic opportunity, and to define principles that render protein–protein interfaces amenable to molecular glue activity.

Qualifications

Candidates must hold a Master's degree (or equivalent) in biochemistry, chemical biology, or a related field and demonstrate excellent written and spoken English skills. These are requirements for formal enrollment in an EPFL doctoral program, which will follow the recruitment process.

We are looking for candidates who:

- Have a strong interest in protein quality control, targeted protein degradation, or principles of molecular recognition
- Have prior exposure to experimental biochemistry or structural biology and are highly motivated to develop deep mechanistic expertise
- Enjoy hypothesis-driven research across biochemical, biophysical, and cell-based systems
- Are enthusiastic team players who enjoy scientific discussion, sharing ideas, and contributing to a supportive and collaborative lab culture

Experience with any of the following will be considered an asset:

- Protein expression and purification
- Structural or biophysical methods
- Coding and computational data analysis skills
- Collaborative work in interdisciplinary research environments

The Kozicka Lab values rigorous, reproducible, ambitious, and creative science. As a PhD fellow, you will take ownership of a central experimental direction, receive dedicated mentorship, and have the freedom to develop and pursue innovative ideas within an inclusive and supportive research environment. We welcome applications from candidates with diverse backgrounds and experiences.

Application

Applications should be written in English and include a CV, academic transcripts, contact details of two referees, a motivation letter outlining interest in the position and future goals, and a one-page statement summarising prior research experience and scientific interests. Please submit these as a single PDF file to zuzanna.kozicka@epfl.ch with the subject line "LPMT PhD Application: [your name]". All applications received before **March 15th 2026** will receive full consideration. Review will continue until the position is filled.

We look forward to receiving your application.