

Falk Lab

Master's Thesis Student

The Falk Lab investigates mechanistic aspects of RNA biology. We employ a combination of bottom-up biochemical reconstitution, structural biology, and cell biology approaches to gain insights into the function of proteins and protein complexes.

About the project

We are characterizing the function of an important and highly conserved protein. Although this protein belongs to the 5–10% most abundant cellular proteins, its function remains poorly understood.

This project aims to biochemically characterize the interactions of this protein with various binding partners (clients) using both qualitative (pull-down assays) and quantitative (e.g., ITC) methods. In addition, we aim to determine the structures of protein complexes experimentally using X-ray crystallography and/or validate AlphaFold predictions through biochemical approaches.

Furthermore, our previous experiments indicate that this protein can induce phase separation with one client protein. We now plan to test additional client proteins in phase separation assays systematically.

Your work will include:

- Cloning of expression constructs for bacterial protein production
- Protein production in *E. coli*
- Protein purification and complex formation
- Biochemical and biophysical characterization & Phase separation assays
- Structural biology approaches

The ideal candidate

We are seeking a highly motivated Master's student to join our international research team. The ideal candidate holds a Bachelor's degree in molecular biology, biochemistry, chemistry, biotechnology, or a related field, with strong academic performance.

Applicants should have hands-on experience in molecular cloning and protein purification techniques, excellent organizational skills, and meticulous attention to detail, along with a commitment to accurate lab documentation. We value curiosity, a proactive mindset, and the ability to work both independently and as part of a team.

The position begins with a rotation, with the possibility to continue into a Master's thesis based on performance and mutual agreement — compensation: €500 per month. Start time from May 2026.

How to apply

Interested candidates should send a detailed CV and a motivation letter describing their background and interest in the project to: sebastian.falk@maxperutzlabs.ac.at.

MAX PERUTZ LABS

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About the Max Perutz Labs

The Max Perutz Labs are a research institute established by the University of Vienna and the Medical University of Vienna to provide an environment for excellent, internationally recognized research and education in the field of Molecular Biology. Dedicated to a mechanistic understanding of fundamental biomedical processes, scientists at the Max Perutz Labs aim to link breakthroughs in basic research to advances in human health. The Max Perutz Labs are located at the [Vienna BioCenter](#), one of Europe's hotspots for Life Sciences, and host around 40 research groups, involving approximately 450 scientists and staff from more than 50 nations.

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