

P.N. 0613-P/179202
20 May 2025

One (1) PhD Student Position

[Ref # ORZ-0756]

The **Arthropod Disease Vector Biology** lab (<https://www.imbb.forth.gr/en/research>), headed by Dr. Michail Kotsyfakis, invites applications for one PhD student position to work on the newly funded EU *HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2024-01-two-stage* project entitled: **“Resilience Enhancement for Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases in Sub-Saharan Africa” (Acronym: ResTick)**.

Job Description: We are looking for a motivated PhD student—ideally with a background in veterinary science, biology, or a related field—to join a project investigating the ecological and evolutionary dynamics of tick-borne viruses. The candidate will participate in field sampling, molecular analysis of ticks and viruses, and contribute to cross-regional comparative research.

About the Lab and Position: The successful applicant will join a multidisciplinary team of biologists and chemists working on vector biology and host-pathogen interactions. The PhD student will participate in lab and field work, contribute to data interpretation, assist in supervising junior students, and be involved in scientific dissemination, paper writing, and conference presentations.

About the Project: The project focuses on understanding tick-virus interactions across continents, using *Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever Virus (CCHFV)* and *Hyalomma* ticks as primary models. The main research themes include:

1. **Ecological dynamics of zoonotic viruses:** Investigate how virus, tick vector, host species, geography, and climate interact to shape transmission.
2. **Tick population structure and speciation:** Use hybridization and field data to assess genetic diversity and evolutionary processes.
3. **Role of migratory birds:** Analyze how birds contribute to spreading tick and virus diversity across barriers.
4. **Tick-virome associations:** Perform molecular genotyping to understand virus diversity within tick populations.
5. **Eco-climatic modeling:** Develop models to assess how climate change and habitat disruption affect the spatial and temporal patterns of vector-borne diseases.

Required qualifications:

- Veterinary medicine degree
- MSc in public health or other relevant area
- Enrollment in a postgraduate program leading to a doctoral degree in relevant areas
- Excellent oral and written skills in English language
- Experience on writing and evaluating experimental protocols using laboratory animals

Desired qualifications/requirements:

- Experience on identification and molecular techniques of arthropod disease vectors (PCR, PCR-RFLP, DNA-extraction)
- FELASA accreditation course
- Ability to start in the next 2 months



	Evaluation criteria	Maximum score
1.	Veterinary Medicine degree (Score points = grade x 2)	20
2.	MSc in public health or other relevant area (Score points = grade x 2)	20
3.	Enrollment in Post-Graduate Program in relevant areas	YES / NO
4.	Proven laboratory experience on writing and evaluating experimental protocols using laboratory animals (1-8 months = 5 points, 8-16 months = 10 points, 16-24 months = 15 points, >24 months = 20 points)	20
5.	Experience on identification and molecular techniques of arthropod disease vectors (PCR, PCR-RFLP, DNA-extraction) (3 months = 10 points, >=3 months = 20 points)	20
6.	Oral and written skills in the English language (B1 = 1 point, B2 = 5 points, C1 = 7.5 points, C2 = 10 points)	10
7.	FELASA accreditation course (Function A: 1 point, Functions A, B: 4 points, Functions A, B, C: 7 points, Functions A, B, C, D: 10 points)	10
8.	Ability to start in the next 2 months	YES / NO
Total score		100

Contract Duration: 12 months with the possibility of extension for another three years

Salary: 1000€ net per month

Envisaged starting date: 1st July 2025

Application submission: Interested applicants should submit their application electronically by **May 30, 2025 @ 13:00 (Greece time)**

The application should consist of:

1. Application Form (see below)
2. CV
3. Brief statement of purpose
4. The names and contact details of two referees
5. Scanned copies of academic titles
6. Scanned copies proving all the qualifications
7. Proof of enrollment in Post-Graduate Program

Submission of applications: orz0756@imbb.forth.gr

Evaluation procedure

Applications will be evaluated by a three-member evaluation committee. In case of interview procedure, applicants will be invited to participate in person or teleconference.

In case of titles and qualifications awarded by foreign Higher Education Institutions, the provisions of the Law 55/2023 (article 36) and 4957/2022 (article 304) are implemented.

The results of the selection will be announced on the website of IMBB-FORTH. Applicants have the right to appeal the selection decision, by addressing their written objection to the IMBB secretariat within five days since the results announcement on the web. Objections are submitted in one of the following ways: in person, by an authorized person, by post, by courier. They also have the right to access (a) the files of the applicants as well

as (b) the table of applicants' scores (ranking of applicants results). All the above information related to the selection procedure will be available at the secretariat of IMBB-FORTH in line with the Hellenic Data Protection Authority. Access to personal data of co- applicants shall be limited to personal data (and relevant data) and supporting documents which have been the basis of the evaluation of the applicants for the specific post(s). Prior to the announcement of the personal data and/or documents of the co- applicants to the applicant, FORTH will inform the data subjects in an appropriate way.

The selected applicants will be notified personally regarding the success of his/her application and will be requested to submit certified copies of his/her degrees. If the submitted documents do not agree with the original application, the applicant will be dismissed.

Throughout the duration of the project, and if there is a need to replace persons selected in accordance with this Call, the replacement will be carried out by selecting - based on score/point allocation - another candidate(s) from the compiled ranking list.

In the event that for any reason the funding provided for the project is interrupted, FORTH-IMBB reserves the right to interrupt the execution of the contract with a special declaration of interruption and without compensation.

FORTH-IMBB does not undertake any commitment to conclude a contract and is entitled to cancel or repeat the procedure without obligation to pay any compensation, excluding any relevant claim by the candidates.

Participation in this call for expressions of interest implies full acceptance of the terms of this.

GDPR Disclaimer

FORTH is compliant with all legal procedures for the processing of personal data as defined by the Regulation EU/2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data. FORTH processes the personal data and relevant supporting documents that applicants have submitted. Processing of that data is carried out exclusively for the needs and purposes of this specific call. Such data shall not be transmitted to or communicated to any third party unless required by law.

FORTH retains the above data up to the announcement of the final results of the call, unless further process and reservation is required by law or for purposes of exercise, enforcement, prosecution of certain one's legitimate legal rights' as defined in the Regulation EU/2016/679 and/or in national law. Under the Regulation EU/2016/679, applicants have the rights to be informed about their personal data, access to, rectification and erasure, restrictions of process and objection to as provided by applicable regulation and national laws. Applicants have the right to file a complaint to the national Data Protection Authority. For any further information regarding exercise of personal data protection rights, applicants may contact the Data Protection Officer at FORTH at dpo@admin.forth.gr.

Applicants have the right to withdraw their application and consent for the processing of personal data at any time. In this case, FORTH shall destroy such documents and/or supporting documents submitted and shall delete the related personal data.

APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____
Surname: _____
Date of birth (dd/mm/yy): _____
Address: _____
Telephone number: _____
Email address: _____

TO
FOUNDATION OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (FORTH)
INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

Hereby I submit my application for the position:

In the framework of the project: _____

Position code [Ref #] _____

Submitted with this application:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

I certify that:

- A) I accept the terms and conditions of the job announcement
- B) I possess all the necessary certificates and documents and I can present them in their original form to the committee without any delay if I am asked to do so
- C) I am able to complete the project within the foreseen time -frame
- D) all the information given in the framework of this application are accurate and true.

Date: _____

Applicant name

(signature)