HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

FORTH

FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY - HELLAS
INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

P.N. 0740-P/214983
20 March 2026

One (1) PhD Student Position

[Ref # ORZ-0884]

The research group of Dr. Panayiota Poirazi under the HORIZON.1.1 – ERC Advanced Grant Cortical Coupling, GA: 101055340, Title: "Dendro-somatic Coupling and global neuronal signaling." (PI: M. Larkum, Partner: P. Poirazi) invites applications for one (1) motivated PhD student to assist with the development of cortical computational models.

About the lab

The Poirazi Lab investigates how dendrites and their integrative properties contribute to learning and memory-related functions, using computational and experimental techniques. Our models explain findings and predict new roles for dendrites in functions such as spatial navigation/learning, working memory, associative memory, visual processing, etc. We also perform behavioral experiments in mice and use 2-photon imaging of prefrontal cortical neurons to investigate the cellular correlates of flexible behavior. The laboratory offers a thriving and lively research environment and is well-funded by several competitive grants.

About the project and Job Description:

The successful applicant will work on a multidisciplinary collaborative project aiming to determine the role of dendrites in conscious perception. The project consists of an extensive experimental component which will be carried out in the lab of Matthew Larkum in Berlin and a computational part that will be carried out in the Poirazi lab. The computational part focuses on understanding how dendritic characteristics such as nonlinearities provided by local spiking mechanisms, anatomical features of dendrites and their plasticity processes can advance the computations performed by artificial neural networks. We welcome applications from candidates with diverse educational backgrounds, including physics, applied mathematics and engineering, that have demonstrated research experience in computational neuroscience and/or neuro-inspired machine learning. Previous experience should include a solid programming background (e.g., Python, NEURON, Linux) and very good knowledge of neurobiology. The ability to work in a team is essential.

Required qualifications:

- MSc or BSc w. integrated Master in Engineering, Medicine, Neuroscience or a relevant field
- Must be an enrolled PhD student in a relevant field
- Solid theoretical background in machine learning (e.g. BSc/MSc in Electrical Engineering/Computer Science)
- Laboratory experience in programming and machine learning (e.g., Python, Matlab, Reservoir Computing, ANNs, SNNs)
- Strong neurobiology background (e.g., BSc in Biology/Medicine/Neuroscience)
- Oral and written communication skills in English
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills

Desired qualifications:

- Highly motivated and creative individuals seeking to work in a dynamic, interdisciplinary research environment.
- Willingness to collaborate with members of both the experimental and theoretical teams within the laboratory.

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	Evaluation criteria	Maximum score
1.	MSc or BSc w. integrated Master in Engineering, Medicine, Neuroscience or a relevant field (Score points = grade x 2)	20
2.	Enrollment in a PhD program in a relevant field	YES/NO
3.	Relevant laboratory experience (≤12 months = 20 points, >12 months = 40 points)	40
4.	Oral and written skills in the English language (B1 -B2= 5 points, C1 = 9 points, C2 = 10 points)	10
5.	Interview evaluating: 1. Background and research experience (10 points) 2. Communication skills (10 points)	20
6.	Letters of recommendation (Excellent: 20 points, Very good: 10 points)	10
Total score		**100**

Contract Duration: 12 months with the possibility of extension according to the project needs
Total budget: according to National Legislation and qualifications
Envisaged starting date: 01/05/2026
Application submission: Interested applicants should submit their application electronically by **30/03/26, @ 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 all academic titles
6. Scanned copies proving all the qualifications
7. Proof of enrollment in a PhD program

Submission of applications: orz0884@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)