PhD position in the Synthesis of Bioactive Compounds

The Laboratory of Catalysis and Organic Synthesis (LCSO, http://lcso.epfl.ch/) at the Institute of Chemical Sciences and Engineering at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne is opening 1 PhD position under the direction of Prof. Jérôme Waser. Focus of the work will be the synthesis of bioactive compounds.

Your future occupation

- Working at the frontier between catalysis, organic synthesis and chemical biology.
- Working in a laboratory using modern synthesis and analytical techniques, for example Schlenk technique, glove box, HPLC, GC-MS, NMR, etc.
- Screening of reaction conditions and reagents for the development of new reactions.
- Developing catalytic asymmetric methods to access important building blocks.
- Multi-step total synthesis of natural products and analogs.
- Teaching laboratories and exercises to bachelor and master students.
- Focus on the diversity oriented synthesis of bioactive compounds based on the activation of small rings. The compounds synthesized will then be tested for their bioactivity in the framework of the NCCR in chemical biology (http://www.nccr-chembio.ch/).

Your profile

- A master or equivalent degree in chemistry, with specialization in organic synthesis.
- Experience in working in an organic chemistry laboratory.
- Good knowledge in written and oral English.
- Highly motivated for discovering new chemistry in a challenging environment.
- A strong interest to interact with scientists in the neighboring field of chemical biology.
- A passion for organic chemistry.

Our offer

Excellent work conditions:

- A multi-cultural, multilingual, and stimulating scientific environment.
- Possibilities to take language courses offered by EPFL.
- Starting date: earliest: May 2012, latest: January 2013, duration of employment 3 to 4 years, with a full salary (around 51’100 CHF a year before tax and social
charges) secured for three years. First three months are on trial and the candidate will have to pass an exam at the end of his first year to be definitively accepted.

- An education in organic synthesis ideally suited for a future career in the chemical industry or Academia.

- A unique chance to interact with other scientists in chemical biology.

Selection Procedure:

1. Please send a letter of motivation, a CV, a copy of the master degree with grades (If not yet available, please include the grades of intermediary exams), a short summary of your previous research work(s) and a list of references with names and e-mail addresses to jerome.waser@epfl.ch. Your application will be examined and you will eventually be asked to apply to the doctoral school of the EPFL (http://phd.epfl.ch/edchmainpage) if your profile looks interesting for LCSO.

2. Selected candidates will be invited for a personal interview.

3. If you need further information, please contact Prof. Waser (jerome.waser@epfl.ch). For administrative issues concerning the doctoral program, please contact Ms Odegaard (annelene.odegaard@epfl.ch)