



## **POST DOCTORAL POSITION**

*Agrotecnio is committed to a diverse and inclusive work environment. Employment is assessed on the basis of qualifications, competence, integrity and organizational needs, in accordance with the HRS4R certification requirements. Women are strongly encouraged to apply.*

### **Clear and precise description of the activity**

#### **Job description:**

The BIOCRAFT Horizon Europe project is seeking a highly motivated postdoctoral researcher to contribute to the development of next-generation climate-resilient, high-yielding, and resource-efficient rice lines. The project combines multiplex genome editing technologies, AI-driven phenotyping, multi-omics decision-making, and microbiome–plant interaction studies to deliver climate-smart crop solutions for European agriculture. The successful candidate will primarily contribute to research on plant–fungal interactions, with a focus on assessing the tolerance of genome-edited rice lines to *Magnaporthe oryzae*, the causal agent of rice blast disease. Prior hands-on experience with rice and/or *Magnaporthe oryzae* is advantageous but not essential, provided the candidate can demonstrate the ability to rapidly acquire the necessary technical skills and competently carry out the required experimental work.

#### **Key responsibilities:**

1. Design, execute, and optimize pathogen infection assays to evaluate rice blast tolerance in genome-edited rice lines.
2. Perform phenotypic, molecular, and statistical analyses of plant responses to fungal challenge.
3. Contribute to the interpretation and integration of experimental results within the broader BIOCRAFT breeding pipeline.
4. Collaborate closely with other lab members and consortium partners working on plant biotechnology, phenotyping, microbiome research, and molecular breeding.
5. Contribute to project reporting, manuscript preparation, and dissemination of research outcomes.
6. Maintain high standards of experimental rigor, reproducibility, and compliance with biosafety and research quality requirements.

### **Place description**

Agrotecnio- Universitat de Lleida  
Campus Agroalimentari, Forestal i Veterinari(ETSEAFIV)  
Avinguda Alcalde Rovira Roure, 191. 25198 Lleida

### **Profile requirements and merits duly accredited.**

1. Degree in Biology, Biotechnology, or a related life science, and a PhD in Plant

- Sciences with experience in plant molecular biology and/or plant pathology.
2. Postdoctoral experience in plant pathology; experience in (cereal-rice) fungal pathogens desirable.
  3. Peer-reviewed publications in plant molecular sciences, including plant–fungal interactions; experience in cereals is an advantage but not a strict requirement.
  4. Good knowledge of English, both written and spoken.
  5. Demonstrated ability to work independently, plan experiments, analyze data, and troubleshoot technical challenges.
  6. Ability to quickly develop competence in new experimental systems, including rice-*Magnaporthe oryzae* assays, if not previously experienced.
  7. Strong teamwork, communication, and collaboration skills in multidisciplinary and international environments.

**Expected duration.**

Starting date-October 2026. One year contract that could be extended yearly upon satisfactory performance

**Weekly hours**

37.5h /week

**Gross amount**

Salary will be fixed according to candidate skills and experience

**Name of the responsible researcher.**

Paul Christou

**Deadline for applications**

August 31, 2026

**Where to submit the application**

Secretary of Agrotecnio ([secretaria@agrotecnio.org](mailto:secretaria@agrotecnio.org))

**Composition of the evaluation committee.**

President: Paul Christou

Secretary: Teresa Capell

Board member: Ludovic Bassie

**Place where the resolution will be published**

The resolution will be published in the Agrotecnio website (<https://agrotecnio.org/careers-job-offers/>)

If you require further information on matters relating to the call please contact:

[paul.christou@udl.cat](mailto:paul.christou@udl.cat)

The contractual modality is of indefinite duration, with specific clauses linked to the financing of the project in accordance with art. 49 1.b) and art. and 52.e) of Royal Legislative Decree 2/2015, of October 23, whereby the revised text of the Workers' Statute Law is approved.

**Please if you are interested in the position send a CV and one page motivation letter explaining how your experience and qualifications match the position description to the e mail below. Please also supply names, positions, telephone numbers and e mail addresses of three professional academic referees. Send all to:**  
[secretaria@agrotecnio.org](mailto:secretaria@agrotecnio.org)

Foot note: Appeals against outcome of the administrative selection process may be directed to the Director/Acting director of the Center within one month outcome of the selection process.

**Lleida, June 2, 2026**

Paul Christou