



Marie Curie Initial Training Network (EU Work Programme PEOPLE):
POSTICK - *Post-graduate training network for capacity building to control ticks and tick-borne diseases*

Job Vacancy in Edinburgh (UK): Graduate Research Position leading to an MSc by Research degree

The Roslin Institute of The University of Edinburgh (UK) offers a position as an “**Early Stage Researcher**” (ESR) for a duration of 18 months.

The ESR will work on the research topic “Effect of co-infection with a virus on *Ehrlichia canis* kinetics in tick and mammalian cells *in vitro*” and will obtain an **MSc by Research** degree from The University of Edinburgh.

Duration: 18 months starting beginning of 2012
Salary: Full-time employment contract according to EU regulations
Objective: MSc by Research degree from the University of Edinburgh

Project description:

An obligate intracellular rickettsial pathogen, *Ehrlichia canis*, will be cultured *in vitro* in cell lines from vector (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*) and non-vector (including *Ixodes ricinus* and *I. scapularis*) tick species. The effect of co-infection with an arbovirus on *E. canis* growth kinetics and ability to transfer between tick and canine cells, and on vector cell innate immune responses will be studied *in vitro*.

Research approaches and specific training include tick and mammalian cell culture, *in vitro* propagation of *E. canis*, basic and molecular virology, qualitative and quantitative DNA/RNA analysis, arthropod innate immunity (cell culture based signalling assays; RNAi), and a research visit of several weeks at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich/Germany (LMU).

This project is part of a Marie Curie Initial Training Network (POSTICK), coordinated by the LMU and funded by the European Commission. POSTICK offers international events (workshops, conferences, networking). For information on POSTICK please visit www.postick.eu.

Application criteria:

BSc Honours degree or equivalent in a relevant field (biology, biochemistry, veterinary medicine etc.); good working knowledge of English; according to EU regulations: a maximum of 4 years of research experience and no PhD degree.

Please send your application including Letter of Motivation and detailed *Curriculum vitae* (pdf format) to the project coordination: postick@tropo.vetmed.uni-muenchen.de

Application deadline: 15th November 2011