The Westerdijk Fungal Biodiversity Institute (formerly known as the Fungal Biodiversity Centre/CBS) is an independent research institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, situated on the campus of the largest university in the Netherlands (Utrecht). It studies fungal biodiversity in the widest sense, focusing on three priority areas, agriculture, human health, and industry (indoor air and food). Presently there are 7 research groups with a total of about 100 employees. The institute maintains a large culture collection of fungi and yeasts, and research groups such as those of Pedro Crous (Evolutionary Phytopathology), Jos Houbraken (Applied and Industrial Mycology), Sybren de Hoog (Origins of Pathogenicity in Clinical Fungi), Ronald de Vries (Fungal Physiology), Teun Boekhout (Yeast and Basidiomycete Research), Vincent Robert (Bioinformatics) and Jérôme Collemare (Fungal Natural Products). Additional information is available on our website: www.westerdijknstitute.nl.

PhD student
full time (1.0 fte 38 hours)

Description of the function:
A PhD position in bioinformatics is available for 4 years at the Westerdijk Institute in the new Fungal Natural Products team. The successful applicant will focus on the exploitation of fungal genomes to identify and study gene clusters that are potentially involved in the production of novel fungal natural products.

Specifically, the project involves:
- Identification of SM gene clusters in available fungal genomes
- Assignment of gene clusters to (un)known chemical structures
- Set up a database to store the generated data
- Study the evolutionary history of selected gene clusters

This PhD thesis is expected to provide new insights about the mechanisms of gene clustering and the evolution of gene clusters. These results will be further exploited to elucidate biosynthetic pathways. The project will be performed in close contact with other teams within the Westerdijk Institute and with Utrecht University and Wageningen University.

Requirements. We are looking for candidates with:
- MSc in bioinformatics
- Excellent communication skills in English, both oral and written
- Team player attitude
- Experience with programming in Python
- Experience with genome and transcriptome analyses
- Background in biology or chemistry is appreciated
- Experience with C++ is appreciated
Duration: Initially one year with a potential extension.

Salary: According to “CAO-Nederlandse Universiteiten” (CAO-NU) €2,222,- in the first year, increasing to €2,840,- in the fourth year, excluding 8% holiday allowance and an 8,3% year-end bonus. We offer an extensive package of fringe benefits.

Location: Utrecht Science Park, de Uithof, The Netherlands.

Information: For additional information please contact Dr. Jérôme Collemare at j.collemare@westerdijkinstitute.nl or visit the website www.westerdijkinstitute.nl.

Interested? Please send your application including curriculum vitae and contact details of at least three references by e-mail to vacancies@westerdijkinstitute.nl, stating vacancy WI-2017-03 in the subject line, before November 1st, 2017.

Any acquisition further to this advertisement will not be appreciated.