

Postdoctoral and Ph.D. Student Positions in Plant Molecular and Cell Biology

Yoo Lab, School of Biological Sciences, The University of Utah

Photobodies and Organelle Communication in Plant Growth and Development (chanyulyoolab.org)

The Positions

We are looking for one postdoctoral researcher and one Ph.D. student to work on the protein complexes that assemble around phytochrome B, the red/far-red light photoreceptor that also acts as a thermosensor in plants. The lab has developed a set of in-house proximity labeling systems that capture these complexes in living plants. We use them to map phyB interactomes under diverse environmental and developmental conditions, and ask how these complexes control plant growth. This research is supported by an NSF-CAREER award ([NSF award page](#)).

Position 1: Postdoctoral Researcher

The postdoc will lead proximity proteomics work to map phyB interactomes in space and time, and will follow up key interactors with biochemical, genetic, and imaging approaches.

Required Qualifications

1. Ph.D. degree in plant molecular biology, molecular biology, cell biology, genetics, or a related field, completed or expected by February 2027. Recent graduates and candidates in their final years are encouraged to apply.
2. High motivation to work in plant biology, molecular biology, and cell biology.
3. Strong background in protein biochemistry, molecular biology, and genetics using *Arabidopsis thaliana*, with a demonstrated publication record (e.g., first-author publications).

Preferred: Experience with biomolecular condensates, confocal microscopy, or quantitative proteomics would be useful, but is not required.

Details

1. Start date: January or February 2027, negotiable
2. Term: One year initially, extendable by two years on satisfactory progress.
3. Salary: From \$63,480, following the NIH scale, plus full benefits including health insurance.

To apply

Email a single PDF file including a cover letter, CV, and three references with contact information to chanyul.yoo@utah.edu or chanyul.yoo@biology.utah.edu

Review of applications begins immediately and continues until the position is filled.

Position 2: Ph.D. Student

We are recruiting one Ph.D. student to join the lab through the Molecular, Cellular & Evolutionary Biology (MCEB) program in the School of Biological Sciences (<https://www.biology.utah.edu/graduate-admissions/>). We look for students who are curious, motivated, and ready to grow into independent researchers.

Qualifications

1. B.S./B.A. or M.S. degree in biology, biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, or a related field.
2. Research experience in a laboratory setting. Experience with plants is welcome but not required.
3. Strong interest in molecular biology, cell biology, and plant biology.

Support

All PhD. students in good academic standing receive up to five years of financial support as a Teaching or Research Assistant, with full tuition coverage and health insurance. The annual stipend for 2026-2027 is \$39,063.

How to Apply

1. Contact me first. Email chanyul.yoo@utah.edu with your CV, a short statement of your research interests and experience, and an unofficial transcript. I will reply to discuss your fit with the lab and our projects.
2. Apply to the graduate program by December 1, 2026. Admission is decided by the School of Biological Sciences graduate admissions committee, so all candidates must submit a full application through the Slate application system.

Contacting me early is strongly encouraged but does not replace or guarantee admission to the program.

What we offer

The lab has its own Zeiss microscope, and you have access to the University of Utah Mass Spectrometry and Proteomics Core and Cell Imaging Core (confocal and super-resolution microscopes). The School of Biological Sciences spans molecular, cellular, developmental, genetics, and evolutionary biology, and the university hosts NIH training programs in developmental biology, cell biology, and genetics. The scientific community around you extends well past plant science. My own trainees have benefited from these programs. I am committed to the career development of every trainee. I will work with you on an individual development plan, fellowship and grant applications, and opportunities to present your work at regional, national, and international meetings.

If you have any questions about either position, please email me.